

A Higher-Order Characterization of Probabilistic Polynomial Time

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Abstract

We present **RSLR**, an implicit higher-order characterization of the class **PP** of those problems which can be decided in probabilistic polynomial time with error probability smaller than $1/2$. Analogously, a (less implicit) characterization of the class **BPP** can be obtained. **RSLR** is an extension of Hofmann’s **SLR** with a probabilistic primitive, which enjoys basic properties such as subject reduction and confluence. Polynomial time soundness of **RSLR** is obtained by syntactical means, as opposed to the standard literature on **SLR**-derived systems, which use semantics in an essential way.

1 Introduction

Implicit computational complexity (ICC) combines computational complexity, mathematical logic, and formal systems to give a machine independent account of complexity phenomena. It has been successfully applied to the characterization of a variety of complexity classes, especially in the sequential and parallel modes of computation (e.g., **FP** [4, 11], **PSPACE** [12], **LOGSPACE** [10], **NC** [5]). Its techniques, however, may be applied also to non-standard paradigms, like quantum computation [7] and concurrency [6]. Among the many characterizations of the class **FP** of functions computable in polynomial time, we can find Hofmann’s *safe linear recursion* [8] (**SLR** in the following), an higher-order generalization of Bellantoni and Cook’s *safe recursion* [3] in which linearity plays a crucial role.

Randomized computation is central to several areas of theoretical computer science, including cryptography, analysis of computation dealing with uncertainty and incomplete knowledge agent systems. In the context of computational complexity, probabilistic complexity classes like **BPP** are nowadays considered as very closely corresponding to the informal notion of feasibility, since a solution to a problem in **BPP** can be computed in polynomial time up to any given degree of precision: **BPP** is the set of problems which can be solved by a probabilistic Turing machine working in polynomial time with a probability of error bounded by a constant *strictly* smaller than $1/2$.

Probabilistic polynomial time computations, seen as oracle computations, were showed to be amenable to implicit techniques since the early days of ICC, by a relativization of Bellantoni and Cook’s safe recursion [3]. They were then studied again in the context of formal systems for security, where probabilistic polynomial time computation plays a major role [9, 14]. These two systems build on Hofmann’s work on **SLR**, adding a random choice operator to the calculus. The system in [9], however, lacks higher-order recursion, and in both papers the characterization of the probabilistic classes is obtained by semantic means. While this is fine for completeness, we think it is not completely satisfactory for soundness — we know from the semantics that for any term of a suitable type its normal form *may be* computed within the given bounds, but no notion of evaluation is given for which computation time is *guaranteed* to be bounded.

In this paper we propose **RSLR**, another probabilistic variation on **SLR**, and we show that it characterizes the class **PP** of those problems which can be solved in polynomial time by a Turing machine with error probability smaller than $1/2$. This is carried out by proving that any term in the language can be reduced in polynomial time, but also that any problems in **PP** can be represented in **RSLR**. A similar result, although in a less implicit form, is proved for **BPP**.

Unlike [9], RSLR has higher-order recursion. Unlike [9] and [14], the bound on reduction time is obtained by syntactical means, giving an explicit notion of reduction which realizes that bound.

1.1 Related Works

We discuss here in more details the relations of our system to the previous work we already cited.

More than ten years ago, Mitchell, Mitchell, and Scedrov [9] introduced OSLR, a type system that characterizes oracle polynomial time functionals. Even if inspired by SLR, OSLR does not admit primitive recursion on higher-order types, but only on base types. The main theorem shows that terms of type $\Box \mathbf{N}^m \rightarrow \mathbf{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ define precisely the *oracle polynomial time functionals*, which constitutes a class related but different from the ones we are interested in here. Finally, inclusion in the polynomial time class is proved without studying reduction from an operational viewpoint, but only via semantics: it is not clear for *which* notion of evaluation, computation time is guaranteed to be bounded.

Recently, Zhang’s [14] introduced a further system (CSLR) which builds on OSLR and allows higher-order recursion. The main interest of the paper are applications to the verification of security protocols. It is stated that CSLR defines exactly those functions that can be computed by probabilistic Turing machines in polynomial time, via a suitable variation of Hofmann’s techniques as modified by Mitchell et al. This is again a purely semantic proof, whose details are missing in [14].

Finally, both works are derived from Hofmann’s one, and as a consequence they both have potential problems with subject reduction. Indeed, as Hofmann showed in his work [8], subject reduction does not hold in SLR, and hence is problematic in both OSLR and CSLR.

1.2 RSLR: An Informal Account

Our system is called RSLR, which stands for Random Safe Linear Recursion.

RSLR can be thought of as the system obtained by endowing SLR with a new primitive for random binary choice. Some restrictions have to be made to SLR if one wants to be able to prove polynomial time soundness easily and operationally. And what one obtains at the end is indeed quite similar to (a probabilistic variation of) Bellantoni, Niggl and Schwichtenberg calculus RA [2, 13]. Actually, the main difference between RSLR and SLR deals with linearity: keeping the size of reducts under control during normalization is very difficult in presence of higher-order duplication. For this reason, the two function spaces $A \rightarrow B$ and $A \multimap B$ of SLR collapse to just one in RSLR, and arguments of an higher-order type can *never* be duplicated. This constraint allows us to avoid an exponential blowup in the size of terms and results in a reasonably simple system for which polytime soundness can be proved explicitly, by studying the combinatorics of reduction. Another consequence of the just described modification is subject reduction, which can be easily proved in our system, contrarily to what happens in SLR [8].

1.3 On the Difficulty of Probabilistic ICC

Differently from most well known complexity classes such as **P**, **NP** and **LOGSPACE**, the probabilistic hierarchy contains so-called “semantic classes”, like **BPP** and **ZPP**. A semantic class is a complexity class defined on top of a class of algorithms which cannot be easily enumerated: a probabilistic polynomial time Turing machine does not *necessarily* solve a problem in **BPP** nor in **ZPP**. For most semantic classes, including **BPP** and **ZPP**, the existence of complete problems and the possibility to prove hierarchy theorems are both open. Indeed, researchers in the area have proved the existence of such results for other probabilistic classes, but not for those we are interested into [?].

Now, having a “truly implicit” system I for a complexity class C means that we have a way to enumerate a set of programs solving problems in C (for every problem there is at least one program that solves it). The presence or absence of complete problems is deeply linked with the possibility to have a real ICC system for these semantic classes. In our case the “semantic information” in

BPP and **ZPP**, that is the probability error, seems to be an information that is impossible to capture with syntactical restrictions. We need to execute the program in order to check if the error bound is correct or not.

2 The Syntax and Basic Properties of RSLR

RSLR is a fairly standard Curry-style lambda calculus with constants for the natural numbers, branching and recursion. Its type system, on the other hand, is based on ideas coming from linear logic (some variables can appear at most once in terms) and on a distinction between modal and non modal variables.

Let us introduce the category of types first:

Definition 2.1 (Types). The *types* of RSLR are generated by the following grammar:

$$A ::= \mathbf{N} \mid \Box A \rightarrow A \mid \blacksquare A \rightarrow A.$$

Types different from \mathbf{N} are denoted with metavariables like H or G . \mathbf{N} is the only *base type*.

There are two function spaces in RSLR. Terms which can be typed with $\blacksquare A \rightarrow B$ are such that the result (of type B) can be computed in constant time, independently on the size of the argument (of type A). On the other hand, computing the result of functions in $\Box A \rightarrow B$ requires polynomial time in the size of their argument.

A notion of subtyping is used in RSLR to capture the intuition above by stipulating that the type $\blacksquare A \rightarrow B$ is a subtype of $\Box A \rightarrow B$. Subtyping is best formulated by introducing aspects:

Definition 2.2 (Aspects). An *aspect* is either \Box or \blacksquare : the first is the *modal* aspect, while the second is the *non modal* one. Aspects are partially ordered by the binary relation $\{(\Box, \Box), (\Box, \blacksquare), (\blacksquare, \blacksquare)\}$, noted $<:$.

Subtyping rules are in Figure 1.

$\frac{}{A <: A} \text{ (S-REFL)} \quad \frac{A <: B \quad B <: C}{A <: C} \text{ (S-TRANS)}$ $\frac{B <: A \quad C <: D \quad b <: a}{aA \rightarrow C <: bB \rightarrow D} \text{ (S-SUB)}$

Figure 1: Subtyping rules.

RSLR's terms are those of an applied lambda calculus with primitive recursion and branching, in the style of Gödel's T:

Definition 2.3 (Terms). Terms and constants are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} t ::= & x \mid c \mid ts \mid \lambda x : aA. t \mid \text{case}_A t \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q \mid \text{recursion}_A t s r; \\ c ::= & n \mid S_0 \mid S_1 \mid P \mid \text{rand}. \end{aligned}$$

Here, x ranges over a denumerable set of variables and n ranges over the natural numbers seen as constants of base type. Every constant c has its naturally defined type, that we indicate with $\text{type}(c)$. As an example, $\text{type}(n) = \mathbf{N}$ for every n , $\text{type}(\text{rand}) = \mathbf{N}$, while $\text{type}(S_0) = \blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$.

The size $|t|$ of any term t can be easily defined by induction on t :

$$\begin{aligned}
|x| &= 1; \\
|ts| &= |t| + |s|; \\
|\lambda x : aA.t| &= |t| + 1; \\
|\text{case}_A t \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q| &= |t| + |s| + |r| + |q| + 1; \\
|\text{recursion}_A t s r| &= |t| + |s| + |r| + 1; \\
|n| &= \lceil \log_2(n) \rceil; \\
|S_0| = |S_1| = |P| = |\text{rand}| &= 1.
\end{aligned}$$

A term is said to be *explicit* if it does not contain any instance of **recursion**. As usual, terms are considered modulo α -conversion. Free (occurrences of) variables and capture-avoiding substitution can be defined in a standard way.

The main peculiarity of RSLR with respect to similar calculi is the presence of a constant for random, binary choice, called **rand**, which evolves to either 0 or 1 with probability $\frac{1}{2}$. Although the calculus is in Curry-style, variables are explicitly assigned a type and an aspect in abstractions. This is for technical reasons that will become apparent soon.

The presence of terms which can (probabilistically) evolve in different ways makes it harder to define a confluent notion of reduction for RSLR. To see why, consider a term like

$$t = (\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. (t_{\oplus} x x)) \text{rand}$$

where t_{\oplus} is a term computing \oplus on natural numbers seen as booleans (0 stands for “false” and everything else stands for “true”):

$$\begin{aligned}
t_{\oplus} &= \lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} x \text{ zero } s_{\oplus} \text{ even } r_{\oplus} \text{ odd } r_{\oplus}; \\
s_{\oplus} &= \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{case}_{\mathbf{N}} y \text{ zero } 0 \text{ even } 1 \text{ odd } 1; \\
r_{\oplus} &= \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{case}_{\mathbf{N}} y \text{ zero } 1 \text{ even } 0 \text{ odd } 0.
\end{aligned}$$

If we evaluate t in a call-by-value fashion, **rand** will be fired *before* being passed to t_{\oplus} and, as a consequence, the latter will be fed with two identical natural numbers, returning 0 with probability 1. If, on the other hand, **rand** is passed unevaluated to t_{\oplus} , the four possible combinations on the truth table for \oplus will appear with equal probabilities and the outcome will be 0 or 1 with probability $\frac{1}{2}$. In other words, we need to somehow restrict our notion of reduction if we want it to be consistent, i.e. confluent.

For the just explained reasons, arguments are passed to functions following a mixed scheme in RSLR: arguments of base type are evaluated before being passed to functions, while arguments of an higher-order type are passed to functions possibly unevaluated, in a call-by-name fashion. Let’s first of all define the one-step reduction relation:

Definition 2.4 (Reduction). The *one-step reduction relation* \rightarrow is a binary relation between terms and sequences of terms. It is defined by the axioms in Figure 2 and can be applied in any contexts, except in the second and third argument of a recursion. A term t is in *normal form* if t cannot appear as the left-hand side of a pair in \rightarrow . NF is the set of terms in normal form.

Informally, $t \rightarrow s_1, \dots, s_n$ means, informally, that t can evolve in one-step to each of s_1, \dots, s_n with the same probability $\frac{1}{n}$. As a matter of fact, n can be either 1 or 2.

A multistep reduction relation will not be defined by simply taking the transitive and reflective closure of \rightarrow , since a term can reduce in multiple steps to many terms with different probabilities. Multistep reduction puts in relation a term t to a probability distribution on terms \mathcal{D}_t such that $\mathcal{D}_t(s) > 0$ only if s is a normal form to which t reduces. Of course, if t is itself a normal form, \mathcal{D}_t is well defined, since the only normal form to which t reduces is t itself, so $\mathcal{D}_t(t) = 1$. But what happens when t is *not* in normal form? Is \mathcal{D}_t a well-defined concept? Let us start by giving some rules deriving statements in the form $t \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{case}_A \ 0 \ \text{zero } t \ \text{even } s \ \text{odd } r \rightarrow t; \\
& \text{case}_A \ (S_0 n) \ \text{zero } t \ \text{even } s \ \text{odd } r \rightarrow s; \\
& \text{case}_A \ (S_1 n) \ \text{zero } t \ \text{even } s \ \text{odd } r \rightarrow r; \\
& \text{recursion}_A \ 0 \ g \ f \rightarrow g; \\
& \text{recursion}_A \ n \ g \ f \rightarrow f n (\text{recursion}_\tau \ \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \ g \ f); \\
& S_0 n \rightarrow 2 \cdot n; \\
& S_1 n \rightarrow 2 \cdot n + 1; \\
& P 0 \rightarrow 0; \\
& P n \rightarrow \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor; \\
& (\lambda x : a\mathbf{N}.t)n \rightarrow t[x/n]; \\
& (\lambda x : aH.t)s \rightarrow t[x/s]; \\
& (\lambda x : aA.t)sr \rightarrow (\lambda x : aA.tr)s; \\
& \text{rand} \rightarrow 0, 1;
\end{aligned}$$

Figure 2: One-step reduction rules.

Definition 2.5 (Multistep Reduction). The binary relation \rightsquigarrow between terms and probability distributions is defined by the rules in Figure 3.

$$\frac{t \rightarrow t_1, \dots, t_n \quad t_i \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}_i}{t \rightsquigarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{D}_i} \quad \frac{t \in NF}{t \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}_t}$$

Figure 3: Multistep Reduction: Inference Rules

In Section 2.2, we will prove that for every t there is at most one \mathcal{D} such that $t \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$. We are finally able to present the type system. Preliminary to that is the definition of a proper notion of a context.

Definition 2.6 (Contexts). A *context* Γ is a finite set of assignments of types and aspects to variables, in the form $x : aA$. As usual, we require contexts not to contain assignments of distinct types and aspects to the same variable. The union of two disjoint contexts Γ and Δ is denoted as Γ, Δ . In doing so, we implicitly assume that the variables in Γ and Δ are pairwise distinct. The union Γ, Δ is sometimes denoted as $\Gamma; \Delta$. This way we want to stress that all types appearing in Γ are base types. With the expression $\Gamma <: a$ we mean that any aspect b appearing in Γ is such that $b <: a$.

Typing rules are in Figure 4. Observe how rules with more than one premise are designed in such a way as to guarantee that whenever $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ can be derived and $x : aH$ is in Γ , then x can appear free at most once in t . If $y : a\mathbf{N}$ is in Γ , on the other hand, then y can appear free in t an arbitrary number of times.

Definition 2.7. A *first-order term* of arity k is a closed, well typed term of type $a_1\mathbf{N} \rightarrow a_2\mathbf{N} \rightarrow \dots a_k\mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ for some a_1, \dots, a_k .

Example 2.1. Let's see some examples. Two terms that we are able to type in our system and one that is not possible to type.

$$\boxed{
\begin{array}{c}
\frac{x : aA \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : A} \text{ (T-VAR-AFF)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A \quad A <: B}{\Gamma \vdash t : B} \text{ (T-SUB)} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma, x : aA \vdash t : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : aA. t : aA \rightarrow B} \text{ (T-ARR-I)} \quad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash c : \text{type}(c)} \text{ (T-CONST-AFF)} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash t : \mathbf{N} \quad \Gamma; \Delta_3 \vdash r : A \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : A \quad \Gamma; \Delta_4 \vdash q : A \quad A \text{ is } \Box\text{-free}}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3, \Delta_4 \vdash \text{case}_A t \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q : A} \text{ (T-CASE)} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma_1; \Delta_1 \vdash t : \mathbf{N} \quad \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_2 \vdash s : A \quad \Gamma_1; \Delta_1 <: \Box \quad \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \vdash r : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare A \rightarrow A \quad A \text{ is } \Box\text{-free}}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash \text{recursion}_A t s r : A} \text{ (T-REC)} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash t : aA \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : A \quad \Gamma, \Delta_2 <: a}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash (ts) : B} \text{ (T-ARR-E)}
\end{array}
}$$

Figure 4: Type rules

As we will see in Chapter 4.1 we are able to type addition and multiplication. Addition gives in output a number (recall that we are in unary notation) such that the resulting length is the sum of the input lengths.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{add} &\equiv \lambda x : \Box \mathbf{N}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \\
&\quad \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{N}} \ x y \ (\lambda x : \Box \mathbf{N}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{S}_1 y) : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}
\end{aligned}$$

We are also able to define multiplication. The operator is, as usual, defined by apply a sequence of additions.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{mult} &\equiv \lambda x : \Box \mathbf{N}. \lambda y : \Box \mathbf{N}. \\
&\quad \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{N}} \ (\text{Px}) y \ (\lambda x : \Box \mathbf{N}. \lambda z : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{add} y z) : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}
\end{aligned}$$

Now that we have multiplication, why not insert it in a recursion and get an exponential? As it will be clear from the next example, the restriction on the aspect of the iterated function save us from having an exponential growth. Are we able to type the following term?

$$\lambda h : \Box \mathbf{N}. \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{N}} \ h \ (11) \ (\lambda x : \Box \mathbf{N}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{mult}(y, y))$$

The answer is negative: the operator `mult` requires input of aspect \Box , while the iterator function need to have type $\Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$.

2.1 Subject Reduction

The first property we are going to prove about RSLR is preservation of types under reduction, the so-called Subject Reduction Theorem. The proof of it is going to be very standard and, as usual, amounts to proving substitution lemmas. Preliminary to that is a technical lemma saying that weakening is derivable (since the type system is affine):

Lemma 2.1 (Weakening Lemma). *If $\Gamma \vdash t : A$, then $\Gamma, x : bB \vdash t : A$ whenever x does not appear in Γ .*

Proof. By induction on the structure of the typing derivation for t .

- If last rule was (T-VAR-AFF) or (T-CONST-AFF), we are allowed to add whatever we want in the context. This case is trivial.
- If last rule was (T-SUB) or (T-ARR-I), the thesis is proved by using induction hypothesis on the premise.
- Suppose that the last rule was:

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash u : N \quad \Gamma; \Delta_3 \vdash r : A \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : A \quad \Gamma; \Delta_4 \vdash q : A \quad A \text{ is } \Box\text{-free}}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3, \Delta_4 \vdash \text{case}_A u \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q : A} \text{ (T-CASE)}$$

If $B \equiv \mathbf{N}$ we can easily do it by applying induction hypothesis on every premises and add x to Γ . Otherwise, we can do it by applying induction hypothesis on just one premise and the thesis is proved.

- Suppose that the last rule was:

$$\frac{\Gamma_1; \Delta_1 \vdash q : \mathbf{N} \quad \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_2 \vdash s : A \quad \Gamma_1; \Delta_1 <: \Box \quad \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \vdash r : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare A \rightarrow A \quad A \text{ is } \Box\text{-free}}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash \text{recursion}_A qsr : A} \text{ (T-REC)}$$

Suppose that $B \equiv \mathbf{N}$, we have the following cases:

- If $b \equiv \Box$, we can do it by applying induction hypothesis on all the premises and add x in Γ_1 .
- If $b \equiv \blacksquare$ we apply induction hypothesis on $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_2 \vdash s : A$ and on $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \vdash r : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare A \rightarrow A$.

Otherwise we apply induction hypothesis on $\Gamma_1; \Delta_1 \vdash q : \mathbf{N}$ or on $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_2 \vdash s : A$ and we are done.

- Suppose that the last rule was:

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash r : aA \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : A \quad \Gamma, \Delta_2 <: a}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash (rs) : B} \text{ (T-ARR-E)}$$

If $B \equiv \mathbf{N}$ we have to apply induction hypothesis on all the premises. Otherwise we apply induction hypothesis on just one premise and the thesis is proved.

This concludes the proof. \square

Two substitution lemmas are needed in RSLR. The first one applies when the variable to be substituted has a non-modal type:

Lemma 2.2 (\blacksquare -Substitution Lemma). *Let $\Gamma; \Delta \vdash t : A$. Then*

1. *if $\Gamma = x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}, \Theta$, then $\Theta; \Delta \vdash t[x/n] : A$ for every n ;*
2. *if $\Delta = x : \blacksquare H, \Theta$ and $\Gamma; \Xi \vdash s : H$, then $\Gamma; \Theta, \Xi \vdash t[x/s] : A$.*

Proof. By induction on a type derivation of t .

- If the last rule is (T-VAR-AFF) or (T-ARR-I) or (T-SUB) or (T-CONST-AFF) the proof is trivial.
- If the last rule is (T-CASE). By applying induction hypothesis on the interested term we can easily derive the thesis.
- If the last rule is (T-REC), our derivation will have the following appearance:

$$\frac{\Gamma_2; \Delta_4 \vdash q : \mathbf{N} \quad \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_5 \vdash s : B \quad \Gamma_2; \Delta_4 <: \Box \quad \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \vdash r : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare B \rightarrow B \quad B \text{ is } \Box\text{-free}}{\Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_4, \Delta_5 \vdash \text{recursion}_B qsr : B} \text{ (T-REC)}$$

By definition, $x : \blacksquare A$ cannot appear in $\Gamma_2; \Delta_4$. If it appears in Δ_5 we can simply apply induction hypothesis and prove the thesis. We will focus on the most interesting case: it

appears in Γ_3 and so $A \equiv \mathbf{N}$. In that case, by the induction hypothesis applied to (type derivations for) s and r , we obtain that:

$$\begin{array}{c} \Gamma_2, \Gamma_4; \Delta_5 \vdash s[x/n] : B \\ \Gamma_2, \Gamma_4; \vdash r[x/n] : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare B \rightarrow B \end{array}$$

where $\Gamma_3 \equiv \Gamma_4, x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}$.

- If the last rule is (T-ARR-E),

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_4 \vdash t : aC \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma; \Delta_5 \vdash s : C \quad \Gamma, \Delta_5 <: a}{\Gamma, \Delta_4, \Delta_5 \vdash (ts) : B} \text{ (T-ARR-E)}$$

If $x : A$ is in Γ then we apply induction hypothesis on both branches, otherwise it is either in Δ_4 or in Δ_5 and we apply induction hypothesis on the corresponding branch. We arrive to the thesis by applying (T-ARR-E) at the end.

This concludes the proof. \square

Notice how two distinct substitution statements are needed, depending on the type of the substituted variable being a base or an higher-order type. Substituting a variable of a modal type requires an additional hypothesis on the term being substituted:

Lemma 2.3 (\Box -Substitution Lemma). *Let $\Gamma; \Delta \vdash t : A$. Then*

1. *if $\Gamma = x : \Box \mathbf{N}, \Theta$, then $\Theta; \Delta \vdash t[x/n] : A$ for every n ;*
2. *if $\Delta = x : \Box H, \Theta$ and $\Gamma; \Xi \vdash s : H$ where $\Gamma, \Xi <: \Box$, then $\Gamma; \Theta, \Xi \vdash t[x/s] : A$.*

Proof. By induction on the derivation.

- If last rule is (T-VAR-AFF) or (T-ARR-I) or (T-SUB) or (T-CONST-AFF) the proof is trivial.
- If last rule is (T-CASE). By applying induction hypothesis on the interested term we can easily derive the thesis.
- If last rule is (T-REC), our derivation will have the following appearance:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma_2; \Delta_4 \vdash q : \mathbf{N} \\ \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_5 \vdash s : B \quad \Gamma_2; \Delta_4 <: \Box \\ \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \vdash r : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare B \rightarrow B \quad B \text{ is } \Box\text{-free} \end{array}}{\Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_4, \Delta_5 \vdash \text{recursion}_B qsr : B} \text{ (T-REC)}$$

By definition $x : \Box A$ can appear in $\Gamma_1; \Delta_4$. If so, by applying induction hypothesis we can derive easily the proof. In the other cases, we can proceed as in Lemma 2.2. We will focus on the most interesting case, where $x : \Box A$ appears in Γ_2 and so $A \equiv \mathbf{N}$. In that case, by the induction hypothesis applied to (type derivations for) s and r , we obtain that:

$$\begin{array}{c} \Gamma_4, \Gamma_3; \Delta_5 \vdash s[x/n] : B \\ \Gamma_4, \Gamma_3; \vdash r[x/n] : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare B \rightarrow B \end{array}$$

where $\Gamma_2 \equiv \Gamma_4, x : \Box \mathbf{N}$.

- If last rule is (T-ARR-E),

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_4 \vdash t : aC \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma; \Delta_5 \vdash s : C \quad \Gamma, \Delta_5 <: a}{\Gamma, \Delta_4, \Delta_5 \vdash (ts) : B} \text{ (T-ARR-E)}$$

If $x : A$ is in Γ then we apply induction hypothesis on both branches, otherwise it is either in Δ_4 or in Δ_5 and we apply induction hypothesis on the relative branch. We prove our thesis by applying (T-ARR-E) at the end.

This concludes the proof. \square

Substitution lemmas are necessary ingredients when proving subject reduction. In particular, they allow to prove that types are preserved along beta reduction steps, the other reduction steps being very easy. We get:

Theorem 2.4 (Subject Reduction). *Suppose that $\Gamma \vdash t : A$. If $t \rightarrow t_1 \dots t_j$, then for every $i \in \{1, \dots, j\}$, it holds that $\Gamma \vdash t_i : A$.*

Proof. By induction on the derivation for term t . We will check the last rule.

- If last rule is (T-VAR-AFF) or (T-CONST-AFF). The thesis is trivial.
- If last rule is (T-SUB). The thesis is trivial.
- If last rule is (T-ARR-I). The term cannot reduce due to is a value.
- If last rule is (T-CASE).

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash s : N \quad \Gamma; \Delta_3 \vdash q : A \\ \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash r : A \quad \Gamma; \Delta_4 \vdash u : A \quad A \text{ is } \Box\text{-free} \end{array}}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3, \Delta_4 \vdash \text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u : A} \text{ (T-CASE)}$$

Our final term could reduce in two ways. Either we do β -reduction on s, r, q or u , or we choose one of branches in the case. In all the cases, the proof is trivial.

- If last rule is (T-REC).

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \rho : \Gamma_1; \Delta_1 \vdash s : \mathbf{N} \\ \mu : \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_2 \vdash r : A \quad \Gamma_1; \Delta_1 <: \Box \\ \nu : \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \vdash q : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare A \rightarrow A \quad A \text{ is } \Box\text{-free} \end{array}}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash \text{recursion}_A s r q : A} \text{ (T-REC)}$$

Our term could reduce in three ways. We could evaluate s (trivial), we could be in the case where $s \equiv 0$ (trivial) and the other case is where we unroll the recursion (so, where s is a value $n \geq 1$). We are going to focus on this last option. The term rewrites to $qn(\text{recursion}_\tau \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor r q)$. We could set up the following derivation.

$$\begin{aligned} \pi &\equiv \frac{\frac{}{\Gamma_1; \Delta_1 \vdash \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor : \mathbf{N}} \text{ (T-CONST-AFF)}}{\nu : \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \vdash q : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare A \rightarrow A \quad \mu : \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_2 \vdash r : A} \text{ (T-REC)} \\ \sigma &\equiv \frac{\nu : \emptyset; \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \vdash q : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare A \rightarrow A \quad \frac{}{\emptyset; \emptyset \vdash n : \mathbf{N}} \text{ (T-CONST-AFF)}}{\emptyset; \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \vdash qn : \blacksquare A \rightarrow A} \text{ (T-ARR-E)} \end{aligned}$$

By gluing the two derivation with the rule (T-ARR-E) we obtain:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \sigma : \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \vdash qn : \blacksquare A \rightarrow A \\ \pi : \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash \text{recursion}_\tau \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor r q : A \end{array}}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash qn(\text{recursion}_\tau \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor r q) : A} \text{ (T-ARR-E)}$$

Notice that in the derivation ν we put Γ_1, Γ_2 on the left side of “;” and also on the right side. Recall the definition 2.6, about “;”. We would stress out that all the variable on the left side have base type, as Γ_1, Γ_2 have. The two contexts could also be “shifted” on the right side because no constraints has been set on the variables on the right side.

- If last rule was (T-SUB) we have the following derivation:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash s : A \quad A <: B}{\Gamma \vdash s : B} \text{ (T-SUB)}$$

If s reduces to r we can apply induction hypothesis on the premises and having the following derivation:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash r : A \quad A <: B}{\Gamma \vdash r : B} \text{ (T-SUB)}$$

- If last rule was (T-ARR-E), we could have different cases.
 - Cases where on the left part of our application we have S_i , P is trivial.

- Let's focus on the case where on the left part we find a λ -abstraction. We will consider the case only where we apply the substitution. The other case are trivial. We could have two possibilities:

- First of all, we can be in the following situation:

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash \lambda x : \blacksquare A.r : aC \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : C \quad \Gamma, \Delta_2 <: a}{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash (\lambda x : \blacksquare A.r)s : B} \text{ (T-ARR-E)}$$

where $C <: A$ and $a <: \blacksquare$. We have that $(\lambda x : \blacksquare A.r)s$ rewrites to $r[x/s]$. By looking at rules in Figure 4 we can deduce that $\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash \lambda x : \blacksquare A.r : aC \rightarrow B$ derives from $\Gamma; x : \blacksquare A, \Delta_1 \vdash r : D$ (with $D <: B$). For the reason that $C <: A$ we can apply (T-SUB) rule to $\Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : C$ and obtain $\Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : A$. By applying Lemma 2.2, we get to

$$\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash r[x/s] : D$$

from which the thesis follows by applying (T-SUB).

- But we can even be in the following situation:

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash \lambda x : \square A.r : \square C \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : C \quad \Gamma, \Delta_2 <: \square}{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash (\lambda x : \square A.r)s : B} \text{ (T-ARR-E)}$$

where $C <: A$. We have that $(\lambda x : \square A.r)s$ rewrites in $r[x/s]$. We behave as in the previous point, by applying Lemma 2.3, and we are done.

- Another interesting case of application is where we perform a so-called “swap”. $(\lambda x : aA.q)sr$ rewrites in $(\lambda x : aA.qr)s$. From a typing derivation with conclusion $\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3 \vdash (\lambda x : aA.q)sr : C$ we can easily extract derivations for the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma; \Delta_1, x : aA \vdash q : bD \rightarrow E \\ \Gamma; \Delta_3 \vdash r : B \\ \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : F \end{aligned}$$

where $B <: D$, $E <: C$ and $A <: F$ and $\Gamma, \Delta_3 <: b$ and $\Gamma, \Delta_2 <: a$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \Gamma, \Delta_3 <: b \\ & \Gamma; \Delta_3 \vdash r : B \\ & \frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1, x : aA \vdash q : bD \rightarrow E}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_3, x : aA \vdash qr : E} \text{ (T-ARR-E)} \\ & \frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_3, x : aA \vdash qr : E}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_3 \vdash \lambda x : aA.qr : aA \rightarrow E} \text{ (T-ARR-I)} \\ & \frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_3 \vdash \lambda x : aA.qr : aA \rightarrow E}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_3 \vdash \lambda x : aA.qr : aF \rightarrow C} \text{ (T-SUB)} \quad \Gamma, \Delta_2 <: a \\ & \frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_3 \vdash \lambda x : aA.qr : aF \rightarrow C \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : F}{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3 \vdash (\lambda x : aA.qr)s : C} \text{ (T-ARR-E)} \end{aligned}$$

- All the other cases can be brought back to cases that we have considered.

This concludes the proof. \square

Example 2.2. In the following example we consider an example similar to one by Hofmann [8]. Let f be a variable of type $\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$. The function $h \equiv \lambda g : \blacksquare(\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}). \lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. (f(gx))$ gets type $\blacksquare(\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}) \rightarrow \blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$. Thus the function $(\lambda v : \blacksquare(\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}). hv)S_1$ takes type $\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$. Let's now execute β reductions, by passing the argument S_1 to the function h and we obtain the following term: $\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. (f(S_1x))$. It's easy to check that the type has not changed.

2.2 Confluence

In view of the peculiar notion of reduction given in Definition 2.4, let us go back to the counterexample to confluence given in the Introduction. The term $t = (\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. (t_{\oplus}xx))\mathbf{rand}$ cannot be

reduced to $t_{\oplus} \mathbf{rand} \mathbf{rand}$ anymore, because only numerals can be passed to functions as arguments of base types. The only possibility is reducing t to the sequence

$$(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.(t_{\oplus} xx))0, (\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.(t_{\oplus} xx))1$$

Both terms in the sequence can be further reduced to 0. In other words, $t \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}$.

More generally, the phenomenon of non-convergence of final distributions can no longer happen in RSLR. Technically, this is due to the impossibility of duplicating terms that can evolve in a probabilistically nontrivial way, i.e., terms containing occurrences of \mathbf{rand} . In the above example and in similar cases we have to evaluate the argument before firing the β -redex — it is therefore not possible to obtain two different distributions. RSLR can also handle correctly the case where \mathbf{rand} is within an argument t of higher-order type: terms of higher-order type cannot be duplicated and so neither any occurrences of \mathbf{rand} inside them.

Confluence of our system is proved by first show a kind of confluence for the single step arrow; then we show the confluence for the multistep arrow. This allows us to certify the confluence of our system.

Lemma 2.5. *Let t be a well typed term in RSLR; if $t \rightarrow v$ and $t \rightarrow z$ (v and z distinct) then exactly one of the following holds:*

- $\exists a$ s.t. $v \rightarrow a$ and $z \rightarrow a$
- $v \rightarrow z$
- $z \rightarrow v$

Proof. By induction on the structure of the typing derivation for the term t .

- If t is a constant or a variable, the theorem is easily proved. The premise is always false, so the theorem is always valid. Remember that $\mathbf{rand} \rightarrow 0, 1$.
- If last rule was T-SUB or T-ARR-I, by applying induction hypothesis the case is easily proved.
- If last rule was T-CASE. Our derivation will have the following shape:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash s : N \quad \Gamma; \Delta_3 \vdash q : A \\ \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash r : A \quad \Gamma; \Delta_4 \vdash u : A \quad A \text{ is } \square\text{-free} \end{array}}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3, \Delta_4 \vdash \mathbf{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u : A} \text{ (T-CASE)}$$

We could have reduced one of the following s, r, q, u terms or a combination of them. In the first case we prove by applying induction hypothesis and in the latter case we can easily find a s.t. $v \rightarrow a$ and $z \rightarrow a$: is the term where we apply both reductions. Last case is where from one part we reduce the case, selecting a branch and from the other part we reduce one of the subterms. As can be easily seen, it is trivial to prove this case; we can easily find a common confluent term.

- If last rule was T-REC, our derivation will have the following shape:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma_2; \Delta_4 \vdash q : \mathbf{N} \\ \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_5 \vdash s : B \quad \Gamma_2; \Delta_4 <: \square \\ \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \vdash r : \square \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare B \rightarrow B \quad B \text{ is } \square\text{-free} \end{array}}{\Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_4, \Delta_5 \vdash \mathbf{recursion}_B q s r : B} \text{ (T-REC)}$$

By definition, we can have reduction only on q or, if q is a value, we can reduce the recursion by unrolling it. In both cases the proof is trivial.

- If last rule was T-ARR-E. Our term could have different shapes but the only interesting cases are the following ones. The other cases can be easily brought back to cases that we have considered.
 - Our derivation will end in the following way:

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash \lambda x : aA.r : bC \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : C \quad \Gamma, \Delta_2 <: b}{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash (\lambda x : aA.r)s : B} \text{ (T-ARR-E)}$$

where $C <: A$ and $b <: a$. We have that $(\lambda x : aA.r)s$ rewrites in $r[x/s]$; if $A \equiv \mathbf{N}$ then s is a value, otherwise we are able to make the substitution whenever we want. If we reduce only on s or only on r we can easily prove our thesis by applying induction hypothesis.

The interesting cases are when we perform the substitution on one hand and on the other hand we make a reduction step on one of the two possible terms s or r .

Suppose $(\lambda x : aA.r)s \rightarrow r[x/s]$ and $(\lambda x : aA.r)s \rightarrow (\lambda x : aA.r)s'$, where $s \rightarrow s'$. Let a be $r[x/s']$. We have that $(\lambda x : aA.r)s' \rightarrow a$ and $r[x/s] \rightarrow a$. Indeed if A is \mathbf{N} , s is a value (we are making substitutions) but no reduction could be made on s , otherwise there is at least one occurrence of s in $r[x/s]$ and by executing one reduction step we are able to have a .

Suppose $(\lambda x : aA.r)s \rightarrow r[x/s]$ and $(\lambda x : aA.r)s \rightarrow (\lambda x : aA.r')s$, where $r \rightarrow r'$. As we have shown in the previous case, we are able to find a confluent term for both terms.

- The other interesting case is when we perform the so called “swap”. $(\lambda x : aA.q)sr$ rewrites in $(\lambda x : aA.qr)s$. If the reduction steps are made only on q or s or r by applying induction hypothesis we have the thesis. In all the other cases, where we perform one step on subterms and we perform, on the other hand, the swap, it's easy to find a confluent term a .

□

Lemma 2.6. *Let t be a well typed term in RSLR; if $t \rightarrow v_1, v_2$ and $t \rightarrow z$ then one of the following sentence is valid:*

- $\exists a_1, a_2$ s.t. $v_1 \rightarrow a_1$ and $v_2 \rightarrow a_2$ and $z \rightarrow a_1, a_2$
- $\forall i. v_i \rightarrow z$
- $z \rightarrow a_1, a_2$

Proof. By induction on the structure of typing derivation for the term t .

- t cannot be a constant or a variable. Indeed if t is **rand**, **rand** reduces in $0, 1$ and this differs from our hypothesis.
- If last rule was T-SUB or T-ARR-I, the thesis is easily proved by applying induction hypothesis.
- If last rule was T-CASE, our derivation will have the following shape:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash s : N \quad \Gamma; \Delta_3 \vdash q : A \\ \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash r : A \quad \Gamma; \Delta_4 \vdash u : A \quad A \text{ is } \square\text{-free} \end{array}}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3, \Delta_4 \vdash \text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u : A} \text{ (T-CASE)}$$

If we perform the two reductions on the single subterms we could be in the following case (all the other cases are similar). for example, if t rewrites in $\text{case}_A s' \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u$ and $\text{case}_A s'' \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u$ and also $t \rightarrow \text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u'$.

It is easy to check that if the two confluent terms are $a_1 = \text{case}_A s' \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u'$ and $a_2 = \text{case}_A s'' \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u'$ the thesis is valid.

Another possible case is where on one hand we perform a reduction by selecting a branch and on the other case we make a reduction on one branch. As example, $t \rightarrow q$ and $r \rightarrow r_1, r_2$. This case is trivial.

- If last rule was T-REC, our derivation will have the following shape:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma_2; \Delta_4 \vdash q : \mathbf{N} \\ \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_5 \vdash s : B \quad \Gamma_2; \Delta_4 <: \square \\ \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \vdash r : \square \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare B \rightarrow B \quad B \text{ is } \square\text{-free} \end{array}}{\Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_4, \Delta_5 \vdash \text{recursion}_B qsr : B} \text{ (T-REC)}$$

By definition, we can have reduction only on q . By applying induction hypothesis the thesis is proved.

- If last rule was T-ARR-E. Our term could have different shapes but the only interesting cases are the following ones. The other cases can be easily brought back to cases that we have considered.
 - Our derivation will end in the following way:

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash \lambda x : aA.r : bC \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : C \quad \Gamma, \Delta_2 <: b}{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash (\lambda x : aA.r)s : B} \text{ (T-ARR-E)}$$

where $C <: A$ and $b <: a$. We have that $(\lambda x : aA.r)s$ rewrites in $r[x/s]$; if $A \equiv \mathbf{N}$ then s is a value, otherwise we are able to make the substitution whenever we want. If we reduce only on s or only on r we can easily prove our thesis by applying induction hypothesis.

The interesting cases are when we perform the substitution on one hand and on the other hand we make a reduction step on one of the two possible terms s or r .

Suppose $(\lambda x : aA.r)s \rightarrow r[x/s]$ and $(\lambda x : aA.r)s \rightarrow (\lambda x : aA.r)s', (\lambda x : aA.r)s''$, where $s \rightarrow s', s''$. Let a_1 be $r[x/s']$ and a_2 be $r[x/s'']$.

We have that $(\lambda x : aA.r)s' \rightarrow a_1$, $(\lambda x : aA.r)s'' \rightarrow a_2$ and $r[x/s] \rightarrow a_1, a_2$. Indeed if A is \mathbf{N} then s is a value (because we are making substitutions) and we cannot have the reductions on s , otherwise there is at least one occurrence of s in $r[x/s]$ and by performing one reduction step on the subterm s we are able to have a_1, a_2 .

Suppose $(\lambda x : aA.r)s \rightarrow r[x/s]$ and $(\lambda x : aA.r)s \rightarrow (\lambda x : aA.r')s, (\lambda x : aA.r'')s$, where $r \rightarrow r', r''$. As we have shown in the previous case, we are able to find a confluent term for both terms.

- The other interesting case is when we perform the so called “swap”. $(\lambda x : aA.q)sr$ rewrites in $(\lambda x : aA.qr)s$. If the reduction steps are made only on q or s or r by applying induction hypothesis we have the thesis. In all the other cases, where we perform one step on subterms and we perform, on the other hand, the swap, it's easy to find a confluent term a .

□

Lemma 2.7. *Let t be a well typed term in RSLR; if $t \rightarrow v_1, v_2$ and $t \rightarrow z_1, z_2$ (v_1, v_2 and z_1, z_2 different) then $\exists a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4$ s.t. $v_1 \rightarrow a_1, a_2$ and $v_2 \rightarrow a_3, a_4$ and $\exists i. z_i \rightarrow a_1, a_3$ and $z_{1-i} \rightarrow a_2, a_4$.*

Proof. By induction on the structure of typing derivation for term t .

- If t is a variable or a constant the thesis is trivial.
- If last rule was (T-SUB) or (T-ARR-I) the thesis is trivial, by applying induction hypothesis.
- If last rule was (T-CASE) our derivation will have the following shape:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash s : N \quad \Gamma; \Delta_3 \vdash q : A \\ \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash r : A \quad \Gamma; \Delta_4 \vdash u : A \quad A \text{ is } \square\text{-free} \end{array}}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3, \Delta_4 \vdash \text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u : A} \text{ (T-CASE)}$$

Also this case is easy to prove. Indeed if the reduction steps are made only on single subterms: s or r or q or u we can prove by using induction hypothesis. Otherwise we are in the case where one reduction step is made on some subterm and the other is made considering a different subterm. Suppose $s \rightarrow s', s''$ and $q \rightarrow q', q''$. We could have two possible reduction. One is $t \rightarrow \text{case}_A s' \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u, \text{case}_A s'' \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u$ and the other is $t \rightarrow \text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q' \text{ odd } u, \text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q'' \text{ odd } u$.

It is easy to find the common confluent terms: are the ones in which we have performed both $s \rightarrow s', s''$ and $q \rightarrow q', q''$.

- If last rule was (T-REC) our derivation will have the following shape:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma_2; \Delta_4 \vdash q : \mathbf{N} \\ \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_5 \vdash s : B \quad \Gamma_2; \Delta_4 <: \square \\ \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \vdash r : \square \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \blacksquare B \rightarrow B \quad B \text{ is } \square\text{-free} \end{array}}{\Gamma_2, \Gamma_3; \Delta_4, \Delta_5 \vdash \text{recursion}_B qsr : B} \text{ (T-REC)}$$

By definition, we can have reduction only on q . By applying induction hypothesis the thesis is proved.

- If last rule was (T-ARR-E). Our term could have different shapes but all of them are trivial or can be easily brought back to cases that we have considered. Also the case where we consider the so called “swap” and the usual application with a lambda abstraction are not interesting in this lemma. Indeed, we cannot consider the “swap” or the substitution case because the reduction relation gives only one term on the right side of the arrow \rightarrow .

□

It is not trivial to prove confluence for \rightsquigarrow . For this purpose we will prove our statement on a different definition of multistep arrow. This new definition is laxer than the standard one. Being able to prove our theorems for this new definition, allows us to conclude that theorems hold also for \rightsquigarrow .

Definition 2.8. In order to prove the following statements we define a new multistep reduction arrow \Rightarrow as in Figure 5. As usual, \mathcal{G}_t is the distribution that associate to the term t probability

$$\boxed{\frac{t \rightarrow t_1, \dots, t_n \quad t_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_i}{t \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{D}_i} \quad \frac{}{t \Rightarrow \mathcal{G}_t}}$$

Figure 5: New Multistep Reduction: Inference Rules

1. With this relation, distribution are functions $\mathcal{D} : \Lambda \rightarrow [0, 1]$. It is easy to check that if $t \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$ then $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ (but not vice-versa).

Definition 2.9 (Size of distribution derivation). We define the size of a derivation $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$, written $|t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}|$, in a inductive way. If the last rule was the axiom, $|t \Rightarrow \mathcal{G}_t| = 0$; otherwise, $|t \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{D}_i| = \max_i |t_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_i| + 1$.

Lemma 2.8. If $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$, be $\mathcal{D} \equiv \{M_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, M_n^{\alpha_n}\}$, and if for all i $M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i$ then $t \Rightarrow \sum_i \alpha_i \mathcal{E}_i$ and $|t \Rightarrow \sum_i \alpha_i \mathcal{E}_i| \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}| + \max_i |M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i|$.

Proof. By induction on the structure of the derivation for $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$.

- If last rule was the axiom, then $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{G}_t$. Suppose $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$. The thesis is easily proved.
- The derivation finishes with the following rule:

$$\frac{t \rightarrow t_1, \dots, t_n \quad t_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_i}{t \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{D}_i}$$

Let's analyse all the possible cases, depending on the value n .

- If $n \equiv 1$.

$$\frac{t \rightarrow t_1 \quad t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}}{t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}}$$

By using induction hypothesis on the premise, we prove our thesis.

- If $n \equiv 2$.

$$\frac{t \rightarrow t_1, t_2 \quad t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1 \quad t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_2}{t \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{D}_1 + \mathcal{D}_2)}$$

Be $\mathcal{D} \equiv \{M_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, M_n^{\alpha_n}\}$ and for all i $M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i$. By construction, we have some elements that belong to \mathcal{D}_1 , other to \mathcal{D}_2 and some element that belong to both of them. Without losing generality, let's say that elements M_1, \dots, M_m belongs to \mathcal{D}_1 and elements M_o, \dots, M_n , where $1 \leq o \leq m \leq n$.

So, we have that $\mathcal{D}_1 \equiv \{M_1^{2\alpha_1}, \dots, M_{o-1}^{2\alpha_{o-1}}, M_o^{\alpha_o}, \dots, M_m^{\alpha_m}\}$ and we have that \mathcal{D}_2 is $\{M_o^{\alpha_o}, \dots, M_m^{\alpha_m}, M_{m+1}^{2\alpha_{m+1}}, \dots, M_n^{2\alpha_n}\}$.

By applying induction hypothesis on the two premises we have that $t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_1$ and $t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2$, where $\mathcal{P}_1 \equiv \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} 2\alpha_i \mathcal{E}_i + \sum_{i=m}^o \alpha_i \mathcal{E}_i$ and $\mathcal{P}_2 \equiv \sum_{i=m}^o \alpha_i \mathcal{E}_i + \sum_{i=o+1}^n 2\alpha_i \mathcal{E}_i$.

So, we can derive that $t \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_1 + \mathcal{P}_2)$ that is our thesis.

Concerning the bound on the derivation, the induction hypothesis applied to the premises gives us $|t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_1| \leq |t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1| + \max_{0, \dots, m} |M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i|$ and $|t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2| \leq |t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_2| +$

$\max_{o,\dots,n} |M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i|$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
|t \Rightarrow \sum_i \alpha_i \mathcal{E}_i| &\equiv \max\{\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2\} + 1 \\
&\leq \max\{|t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1| + \max_{0,\dots,m} |M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i|, |t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_2| + \max_{o,\dots,n} |M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i|\} + 1 \\
&\leq \max\{|t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1|, |t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_2|\} + 1 + \max\{\max_{o,\dots,n} |M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i|, \max_{0,\dots,m} |M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i|\} \\
&\leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}| + \max_i |M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i|
\end{aligned}$$

and the lemma is proved. \square

Theorem 2.9 (Multistep Confluence). *Let t be a closed, typable, term. Then if $t \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $t \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{E}$ then $\mathcal{D} \equiv \mathcal{E}$.*

Proof. We are going to prove the following strengthening of the thesis: Be t a closed term. If $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$, be $\mathcal{D} \equiv \{M_1^{p_1}, \dots, M_n^{p_n}\}$ and $\mathcal{E} \equiv \{N_1^{q_1}, \dots, N_k^{q_k}\}$ then exist $\mathcal{L}_1, \dots, \mathcal{L}_n, \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, \mathcal{J}_k$ such that $M_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_1, \dots, M_n \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_n$ and $N_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, N_k \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_k$, $\max_i (|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_i|) \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$, $\max_j (|N_j \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_j|) \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}|$ and $\sum_i (p_i \times \mathcal{L}_i) \equiv \sum_j (q_j \times \mathcal{J}_j)$.

We are going to prove on induction on the sum of the length of the two derivation of $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$.

- If both derivations end with the axiom rule, we are in the following case:

$$\frac{}{t \Rightarrow \mathcal{G}_{t1}} \quad \frac{}{t \Rightarrow \mathcal{G}_{t2}}$$

we can associate to r the distribution \mathcal{G}_t and the thesis is proved.

- If t is **rand**, it's easy to check the validity of the thesis (independently from the structure of the two derivations).
- If only one of the derivation consists of the axiom rule, we are in the following case:

$$\frac{t \rightarrow t_1, \dots, t_n \quad t_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_i}{t \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{D}_i} \quad \frac{}{t \Rightarrow \mathcal{G}_t}$$

If $\mathcal{D} \equiv \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{D}_i \equiv \{M_1^{p_1}, \dots, M_n^{p_n}\}$ and $\mathcal{G}_t \equiv \{t^1\}$, then it's easy to find the “confluent” distribution. For each M_i we associate the relative \mathcal{G}_{M_i} and to t we associate \mathcal{D} . The thesis is proved.

- Otherwise we are in the case where the sum of the two length is more than 2 and so, where the last rule, for both derivations, is not the axiom one.

$$\frac{t \rightarrow t_1, \dots, t_n \quad t_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_i}{t \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{D}_i} \quad \frac{t \rightarrow s_1, \dots, s_m \quad s_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i}{t \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{m} \mathcal{E}_i}$$

- If t_1, \dots, t_n is equal to s_1, \dots, s_m (modulo sort) then by using induction hypothesis we are done. Let's consider the most interesting case, where the terms on the right side of \rightarrow are different.
- If $n = m = 1$. By lemma 2.5 we could have three possible configurations:
 - $t_1 \rightarrow s_1$. We have that $t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1$ and $t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_1$. So the thesis is derived by induction.
 - $s_1 \rightarrow t_1$. Same as before.
 - $\exists r$ s.t. $t_1 \rightarrow r$ and $s_1 \rightarrow r$. Be $\mathcal{D} \equiv \{M_1^{p_1}, \dots, M_n^{p_n}\}$ and $\mathcal{E} \equiv \{N_1^{q_1}, \dots, N_k^{q_k}\}$. By using axiom rule, we can associate a distribution to r ; let's call it \mathcal{P} , such that $r \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}$. So, $t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1$ and $t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}$. By induction exist $\mathcal{L}_1, \dots, \mathcal{L}_n, \mathcal{H}$ such that $M_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_1, \dots, M_n \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_n$ and $r \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}$, $\max_i (|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_i|) \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}|$ and $|r \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}| \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}|$ and $\sum_i (p_i \times \mathcal{L}_i) \equiv \mathcal{H}$.
Similar we have that exist $\mathcal{J}_1, \dots, \mathcal{J}_k, \mathcal{H}$ such that $N_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, N_k \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_k$ and $r \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}$, $\max_i (|N_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_i|) \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$ and $|r \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}| \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$ and $\sum_i (q_i \times \mathcal{J}_i) \equiv \mathcal{H}$.

Merging the two disambiguation, we obtain that $|r \Rightarrow \mathcal{K}| + |r \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}| \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}| + |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$. Be $\mathcal{K} \equiv \{P_1^{\gamma_1}, \dots, P_o^{\gamma_o}\}$ and $\mathcal{H} \equiv \{Q_1^{\delta_1}, \dots, Q_p^{\delta_p}\}$

We can apply induction hypothesis and obtain that exist $\mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_o, \mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_p$ such that $P_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1, \dots, P_n \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_o$ and $Q_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{R}_1, \dots, Q_k \Rightarrow \mathcal{R}_k$, $\max_i(|P_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_i|) \leq |r \Rightarrow \mathcal{K}|$ and $\max_j(|Q_j \Rightarrow \mathcal{R}_j|) \leq |r \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}|$ and $\sum_i(\gamma_i \times \mathcal{D}_i) \equiv \sum_j(\delta_j \times \mathcal{R}_j)$.

Notice that the cardinality of \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{K} may differs but for sure they have the same terms with non zero probability. Similar, \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{H} have the same terms with non zero probability.

By using lemma 2.8 and using transitive property of equality we obtain that $t \Rightarrow \sum_i p_i \mathcal{D}_i \equiv \sum_i \gamma_i \mathcal{D}_i = \sum_j \delta_j \mathcal{R}_j$ and $t \Rightarrow \sum_i q_i \mathcal{R}_i \equiv \sum_j \delta_j \mathcal{R}_j$. Moreover we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_i(|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_i|) &\leq |r \Rightarrow \mathcal{K}| \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}| \\ \max_i(|N_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{R}_i|) &\leq |r \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}| \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}| \end{aligned}$$

The thesis is proved.

- If $n = 2$ and $m = 1$. By lemma 2.6 we could have three possible configurations:
 - $\forall i. t_i \rightarrow s_1$. If so, $t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ and $t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ (recall $m = 1$, so $s_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$). Be $\mathcal{D} \equiv \{M_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, M_n^{\alpha_n}\}$ and $\mathcal{E} \equiv \{N_1^{\beta_1}, \dots, N_k^{\beta_k}\}$. By construction, we have some elements that belong to \mathcal{D}_1 , other to \mathcal{D}_2 and some element that belong to both of them. Without loosing generality, let's say that elements M_1, \dots, M_m belongs to \mathcal{D}_1 and elements M_o, \dots, M_n , where $1 \leq o \leq m \leq n$. So, we have that $\mathcal{D}_1 \equiv \{M_1^{2\alpha_1}, \dots, M_{o-1}^{2\alpha_{o-1}}, M_o^{\alpha_o}, \dots, M_m^{\alpha_m}\}$ and we have that \mathcal{D}_2 is $\{M_o^{\alpha_o}, \dots, M_m^{\alpha_m}, M_{m+1}^{2\alpha_{m+1}}, \dots, M_n^{2\alpha_n}\}$. By using induction we have that exist $\mathcal{L}_1, \dots, \mathcal{L}_n, \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, \mathcal{J}_k$ such that $M_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_1, \dots, M_n \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_n$ and $N_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, N_k \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_k$, $\max_{0 \leq i \leq m}(|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_i|) \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$, $\max_j(|N_j \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_j|) \leq |t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1|$, $\max_{o \leq i \leq n}(|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_i|) \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$, $\max_j(|N_j \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_j|) \leq |t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_2|$, $\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} 2\alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i + \sum_{i=m}^o \alpha_i \mathcal{L}_1 \equiv \sum_j(\beta_j \times \mathcal{J}_j)$ and $\sum_{i=m}^o \alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i + \sum_{i=o+1}^n 2\alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i \equiv \sum_j(\beta_j \times \mathcal{J}_j)$. Merging all, we have that exist $\mathcal{L}_1, \dots, \mathcal{L}_n, \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, \mathcal{J}_k$ such that $M_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_1, \dots, M_n \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_n$ and $N_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, N_k \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_k$, $\max_i(|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_i|) \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$, $\max_j(|N_j \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_j|) \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}|$, $\sum_i(p_i \times \mathcal{L}_i) \equiv \sum_j(q_j \times \mathcal{J}_j)$.
 - $s \rightarrow t_1, t_2$. We have that $s \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{D}_1 + \mathcal{D}_2)$ and $s \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$. By applying induction hypothesis we prove out thesis. Notice that $|s \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}| = |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}|$.
 - $\exists a_1, a_2$ s.t. $t_1 \rightarrow a_1$ and $t_2 \rightarrow a_2$ and $s_1 \rightarrow a_1, a_2$. Be $\mathcal{D} \equiv \{M_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, M_n^{\alpha_n}\}$ and $\mathcal{E} \equiv \{N_1^{\beta_1}, \dots, N_k^{\beta_k}\}$. By construction, we have some elements that belong to \mathcal{D}_1 , other to \mathcal{D}_2 and some element that belong to both of them. Without loosing generality, let's say that elements M_1, \dots, M_m belongs to \mathcal{D}_1 and elements M_o, \dots, M_n , where $1 \leq o \leq m \leq n$. So, we have that $\mathcal{D}_1 \equiv \{M_1^{2\alpha_1}, \dots, M_{o-1}^{2\alpha_{o-1}}, M_o^{\alpha_o}, \dots, M_m^{\alpha_m}\}$ and we have that \mathcal{D}_2 is $\{M_o^{\alpha_o}, \dots, M_m^{\alpha_m}, M_{m+1}^{2\alpha_{m+1}}, \dots, M_n^{2\alpha_n}\}$. By using the axiom rule, we associate to every a_i a distribution \mathcal{P}_i s.t. $a_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_i$. Be $\mathcal{P}_1 \equiv \{P_1^{\gamma_1}, \dots, P_o^{\gamma_o}\}$ and be $\mathcal{P}_2 \equiv \{Q_1^{\delta_1}, \dots, Q_p^{\delta_p}\}$. So, we have, for all i , $t_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_i$ and $t_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_i$, $s \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ and $s \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_1 + \mathcal{P}_2)$. By applying induction hypothesis on all the three cases we have that exist $\mathcal{L}_1, \dots, \mathcal{L}_n, \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, \mathcal{J}_k, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{R}$ such that $M_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_1, \dots, M_n \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_n$, $N_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, N_k \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_k$, and $a_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{K}$ and $a_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ and $a_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and $a_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ such that:
 - $\max_{1 \leq i \leq m}(|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_i|) \leq |t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_1|$,
 $|a_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{K}| \leq |t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1|$,
 $\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} 2\alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i + \sum_{i=m}^o \alpha_i \mathcal{L}_1 \equiv \mathcal{K}$
 - $\max_{o \leq i \leq n}(|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_i|) \leq |t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2|$,

$$\begin{aligned}
& |a_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}| \leq |t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_2|, \\
& \sum_{i=m}^o \alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i + \sum_{i=o+1}^n 2\alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i \equiv \mathcal{H} \\
& \bullet \max_i (|N_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_i|) \leq |s \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_1 + \mathcal{P}_2)|, \\
& \max\{|a_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{Q}|, |a_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{R}|\} \leq |s \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}| \\
& \sum_i \beta_i \mathcal{J}_i \equiv \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{Q} + \mathcal{R})
\end{aligned}$$

Notice that $|a_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{Q}| + |a_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}| < |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}| + |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$. Moreover, notice also that the following inequality holds: $|a_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{R}| + |a_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}| < |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}| + |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$. We are allowed to apply, again, induction hypothesis and have a confluent distribution for both cases. Lemma 2.8 then allows us to connect the first two main derivations and by transitive property of equality we have the thesis.

- If $n = 1$ and $m = 2$. This case is similar to the previous one.
- If $n = m = 2$. By lemma 2.7 we have: $\exists a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4$ s.t. $t_1 \rightarrow a_1, a_2$ and $t_2 \rightarrow a_3, a_4$ and $\exists i.s_i \rightarrow a_1, a_3$ and $s_{1-i} \rightarrow a_2, a_4$.

At each a_i we associate, by using the axiom rule, the relative distribution \mathcal{P}_i s.t. $a \Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_i$. Without loosing generality, let's say that elements M_1, \dots, M_m belongs to \mathcal{D}_1 and elements M_o, \dots, M_n to \mathcal{D}_2 , where $1 \leq o \leq m \leq n$; N_1, \dots, N_p belongs to \mathcal{E}_1 and elements N_q, \dots, N_k to \mathcal{E}_2 , where $1 \leq q \leq p \leq k$.

So, we have that $\mathcal{D}_1 \equiv \{M_1^{2\alpha_1}, \dots, M_{o-1}^{2\alpha_{o-1}}, M_o^{\alpha_o}, \dots, M_m^{\alpha_m}\}$ and we have that \mathcal{D}_2 is $\{M_o^{\alpha_o}, \dots, M_m^{\alpha_m}, M_{m+1}^{2\alpha_{m+1}}, \dots, M_n^{2\alpha_n}\}$ and $\mathcal{E}_1 \equiv \{N_1^{2\beta_1}, \dots, N_{q-1}^{2\beta_{q-1}}, N_q^{\beta_q}, \dots, N_p^{\beta_p}\}$ and $\mathcal{E}_2 \equiv \{N_q^{\beta_q}, \dots, N_p^{\beta_p}, N_{p+1}^{2\beta_{p+1}}, \dots, N_k^{2\beta_k}\}$.

This case it's very similar to two previous ones. We have that $t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1$ and $t_1 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_1 + \mathcal{P}_2)$, $t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_2$ and $t_2 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_3 + \mathcal{P}_4)$, $s_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_1$ and $s_1 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_1 + \mathcal{P}_3)$, $s_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_2$ and $s_2 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_2 + \mathcal{P}_4)$. We can apply the induction hypothesis to the four cases and have that exist $\mathcal{L}_1, \dots, \mathcal{L}_n, \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, \mathcal{J}_k, \mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{H}_2, \mathcal{H}_3, \mathcal{H}_4, \mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{H}_2, \mathcal{H}_3, \mathcal{H}_4$ such that $M_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_1, \dots, M_n \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_n, N_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_1, \dots, N_k \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_k, a_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_i$ and $a_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_i$ such that:

- $\max_{1 \leq i \leq m} (|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_i|) \leq |t_1 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_1 + \mathcal{P}_2)|$,
 $\max\{|a_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_1|, |a_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_2|\} \leq |t_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1|$,
 $\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} 2\alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i + \sum_{i=m}^o \alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i \equiv \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{H}_1 + \mathcal{H}_2)$
- $\max_{o \leq i \leq n} (|M_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_i|) \leq |t_2 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_3 + \mathcal{P}_4)|$,
 $\max\{|a_3 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_3|, |a_4 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_4|\} \leq |t_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_2|$,
 $\sum_{i=m}^o \alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i + \sum_{i=o+1}^n 2\alpha_i \mathcal{L}_i \equiv \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{H}_3 + \mathcal{H}_4)$
- $\max_{1 \leq i \leq p} (|N_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_i|) \leq |s \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_1 + \mathcal{P}_3)|$,
 $\max\{|a_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_1|, |a_3 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_3|\} \leq |s_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_1|$,
 $\sum_{i=1}^{q-1} 2\beta_i \mathcal{J}_i + \sum_{i=q}^p \beta_i \mathcal{J}_i \equiv \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{H}_1 + \mathcal{H}_2)$
- $\max_{q \leq i \leq k} (|N_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{J}_i|) \leq |s \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{P}_2 + \mathcal{P}_4)|$,
 $\max\{|a_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_2|, |a_4 \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_4|\} \leq |s_2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}_2|$,
 $\sum_{i=q}^p \beta_i \mathcal{J}_i + \sum_{i=p+1}^k 2\beta_i \mathcal{J}_i \equiv \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{H}_2 + \mathcal{H}_4)$

Now, notice that for all i , $|a_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_i| + |a_i \Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_i| \leq |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}| + |t \Rightarrow \mathcal{E}|$. As we have done in the previous cases, we are now able to apply the induction hypothesis on the four cases. Then we use the lemma 2.8 and find confluent distributions. Sum everything and we are able to prove our thesis.

It is easy to check that original thesis is a corollary of the strengthening thesis. This concludes the proof. \square

Example 2.3. Consider again the term

$$t = (\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. (t_{\oplus} x x)) \mathbf{rand}$$

where t_{\oplus} is a term computing \oplus on natural numbers seen as booleans (0 stands for “false” and

everything else stands for “true”):

$$\begin{aligned} t_{\oplus} &= \lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} x \text{ zero } s_{\oplus} \text{ even } r_{\oplus} \text{ odd } r_{\oplus}; \\ s_{\oplus} &= \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{case}_{\mathbf{N}} y \text{ zero } 0 \text{ even } 1 \text{ odd } 1; \\ r_{\oplus} &= \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{case}_{\mathbf{N}} y \text{ zero } 1 \text{ even } 0 \text{ odd } 0. \end{aligned}$$

In order to simplify reading, let us define:

- $f \equiv (t_{\oplus} xx)$
- $g_0 \equiv (\text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} 0 \text{ zero } s_{\oplus} \text{ even } r_{\oplus} \text{ odd } r_{\oplus})$
- $g_1 \equiv (\text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} 1 \text{ zero } s_{\oplus} \text{ even } r_{\oplus} \text{ odd } r_{\oplus})$
- $h_0 \equiv \text{case}_{\mathbf{N}} 0 \text{ zero } 0 \text{ even } 1 \text{ odd } 1$
- $h_1 \equiv \text{case}_{\mathbf{N}} 1 \text{ zero } 1 \text{ even } 0 \text{ odd } 0$

We can produce the following derivation tree:

$$\begin{array}{c} \pi_0 : \\ \frac{\frac{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)0 \rightarrow t_{\oplus} 00}{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)0 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \quad \frac{\frac{t_{\oplus} 00 \rightarrow g_0 0}{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} x \text{ zero } s_{\oplus} \text{ even } r_{\oplus} \text{ odd } r_{\oplus})0 0 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \quad \frac{g_0 0 \rightarrow s_{\oplus} 0}{s_{\oplus} 0 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \quad \frac{s_{\oplus} 0 \rightarrow h_0}{h_0 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \quad \frac{h_0 \rightarrow 0}{0 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}}}{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)0 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \\ \\ \pi_1 : \\ \frac{\frac{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)1 \rightarrow t_{\oplus} 11}{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)1 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \quad \frac{\frac{t_{\oplus} 11 \rightarrow g_1 1}{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} x \text{ zero } s_{\oplus} \text{ even } r_{\oplus} \text{ odd } r_{\oplus})1 1 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \quad \frac{g_1 1 \rightarrow r_{\oplus} 1}{r_{\oplus} 1 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \quad \frac{r_{\oplus} 1 \rightarrow h_1}{h_1 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \quad \frac{h_1 \rightarrow 0}{0 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}}}{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)1 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \\ \\ \frac{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)\text{rand} \rightarrow (\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)0, (\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)1 \quad \pi_0 : (\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)0 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\} \quad \pi_1 : (\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.f)1 \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}}{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.(t_{\oplus} xx))\text{rand} \rightsquigarrow \{0^1\}} \end{array}$$

3 Probabilistic Polytime Soundness

The most difficult (and interesting!) result about RSLR is definitely polytime soundness: every (instance of) a first-order term can be reduced to a numeral in a polynomial number of steps by a probabilistic Turing machine. Polytime soundness can be proved, following [2], by showing that:

- Any explicit term of base type can be reduced to its normal form with very low time complexity;
- Any term (non necessarily of base type) can be put in explicit form in polynomial time.

By gluing these two results together, we obtain what we need, namely an effective and efficient procedure to compute the normal forms of terms. Formally, two notions of evaluation for terms correspond to the two steps defined above:

- On the one hand, we need a ternary relation \Downarrow_{nf} between closed terms of type \mathbf{N} , probabilities and numerals. Intuitively, $t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha} n$ holds when t is explicit and rewrites to n with probability α . The inference rules for \Downarrow_{nf} are defined in Figure 6;
- On the other hand, we need a ternary relation \Downarrow_{rf} between terms of non modal type, probabilities and terms. We can derive $t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha} s$ only if t can be transformed into s with probability α consistently with the reduction relation. The inference rules for \Downarrow_{rf} are in Figure 7.

Moreover, a third ternary relation \Downarrow between closed terms of type \mathbf{N} , probabilities and numerals can be defined by the rule below:

$$\frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha} s \quad s \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\beta} n}{t \Downarrow^{\alpha\beta} n}$$

A peculiarity of the just introduced relations with respect to similar ones is the following: whenever a statement in the form $t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha} s$ is an immediate premise of another statement $r \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\beta} q$, then t needs

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{n \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^1 n} \quad \frac{}{\text{rand} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{1/2} 0} \quad \frac{}{\text{rand} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{1/2} 1} \\
\frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha n}{\text{S}_0 t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 2 \cdot n} \quad \frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha n}{\text{S}_1 t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 2 \cdot n + 1} \quad \frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 0}{\text{Pt} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 0} \quad \frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha n \quad n \geq 1}{\text{Pt} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \\
\frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 0 \quad s\bar{u} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta n}{(\text{case}_A t \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q)\bar{u} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha\beta} n} \\
\frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 2n \quad r\bar{u} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta m \quad n \geq 1}{(\text{case}_A t \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q)\bar{u} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha\beta} m} \\
\frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 2n + 1 \quad q\bar{u} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta m}{(\text{case}_A t \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q)\bar{u} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha\beta} m} \\
\frac{s \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha n \quad (t[x/n])\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta m}{(\lambda x : a\mathbf{N}.t)s\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha\beta} m} \quad \frac{(t[x/s])\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta n}{(\lambda x : aH.t)s\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta n}
\end{array}$$

Figure 6: The relation \Downarrow_{nf} : Inference Rules

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{c \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^1 c} \quad \frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha v}{\text{S}_0 t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha \text{S}_0 v} \quad \frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha v}{\text{S}_1 t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha \text{S}_1 v} \quad \frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha v}{\text{Pt} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha \text{P} v} \\
\frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha v \quad r \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\gamma a \quad s \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\beta z \quad q \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\delta b \quad \forall u_i \in \bar{u}, u_i \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\epsilon_i} c_i}{(\text{case}_A t \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q)\bar{u} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \prod_i \epsilon_i \quad (\text{case}_A v \text{ zero } z \text{ even } a \text{ odd } b)\bar{c}} \\
\frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha v \quad s \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\gamma z \quad v \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta n \quad \forall q_i \in \bar{q}, q_i \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\delta_i} b_i \quad r \lfloor \frac{n}{2^0} \rfloor \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\gamma_0} r_0 \quad \dots \quad r \lfloor \frac{n}{2^{|n|-1}} \rfloor \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\gamma_{|n|-1}} r_{|n|-1}}{(\text{recursion}_A t s r)\bar{q} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha\beta\gamma(\prod_j \gamma_j)(\prod_i \delta_i)} r_0(\dots(r_{|n|-1}z)\dots)\bar{b}} \\
\frac{s \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha z \quad z \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\gamma n \quad (t[x/n])\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\beta u}{(\lambda x : \square \mathbf{N}.t)s\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha\gamma\beta} u} \quad \frac{s \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha z \quad z \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\gamma n \quad t\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\beta u}{(\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.t)s\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha\gamma\beta} (\lambda x : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}.u)n} \\
\frac{(t[x/s])\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\beta u}{(\lambda x : aH.t)s\bar{r} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\beta u} \quad \frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\beta u}{\lambda x : aA.t \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\beta \lambda x : aA.u} \quad \frac{t_j \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha_j} s_j}{x\bar{t} \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\prod_i \alpha_i} x\bar{s}}
\end{array}$$

Figure 7: The relation \Downarrow_{rf} : Inference Rules

to be structurally smaller than r , provided all numerals are assumed to have the same internal structure. A similar but weaker statement holds for \Downarrow_{rf} . This relies on the peculiarities of RSLR, and in particular on the fact that variables of higher-order types can appear free at most once in terms, and that terms of base types cannot be passed to functions without having been completely evaluated. In other words, the just described operational semantics is structural in a very strong sense, and this allows to prove properties about it by induction on the structure of *terms*, as we will experience in a moment.

Before starting to study the combinatorial properties of \Downarrow_{rf} and \Downarrow_{nf} , it is necessary to show that, at least, \Downarrow is adequate as a way to evaluate lambda terms:

Theorem 3.1 (Adequacy). *For every term t such that $\vdash t : \mathbf{N}$, the following two conditions are equivalent:*

1. *There are j distinct derivations with conclusions $t \Downarrow^{\alpha_1} n_1, \dots, t \Downarrow^{\alpha_j} n_j$ (respectively) such that $\sum_{i=1}^j \alpha_i = 1$;*
2. *$t \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$, where for every m , $\mathcal{D}(m) = \sum_{n_i=m} \alpha_i$.*

Proof. Implication 1 \Rightarrow 2 can be proved by an induction on the sum of the sizes of the j derivations. About the converse, just observe that, *some* derivations like the ones required in Condition 1 need to exist. This can be formally proved by induction on $|t|_w$, where $|\cdot|_w$ is defined as follows: $|x|_w = 1$, $|ts|_w = |t|_w + |s|_w$, $|\lambda x : aA.t|_w = |t|_w + 1$, $|\text{case}_A t \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q|_w = |t|_w + |s|_w + |r|_w + |q|_w + 1$, $|\text{recursion}_A t s r|_w = |t|_w + |s|_w + |r|_w + 1$, $|n|_w = 1$, $|S_0|_w = |S_1|_w = |P|_w = |\text{rand}|_w = 1$. Thanks to multistep confluence, we can conclude. \square

It's now time to analyse how big derivations for \Downarrow_{nf} and \Downarrow_{rf} can be with respect to the size of the underlying term. Let us start with \Downarrow_{nf} and prove that, since it can only be applied to explicit terms, the sizes of derivations must be very small:

Proposition 3.2. *Suppose that $\vdash t : \mathbf{N}$, where t is explicit. Then for every $\pi : t \Downarrow_{nf}^\alpha m$ it holds that*

1. $|\pi| \leq 2 \cdot |t|$;
2. *If $s \in \pi$, then $|s| \leq 2 \cdot |t|^2$;*

Proof. Given any term t , $|t|_w$ and $|t|_n$ are defined, respectively, as the size of t where every numeral counts for 1 and the maximum size of the numerals that occur in t . For a formal definition of $|\cdot|_w$, see the proof of Theorem 3.1. On the other hand, $|\cdot|_n$ is defined as follows: $|x|_n = 0$, $|ts|_n = \max\{|t|_n, |s|_n\}$, $|\lambda x : aA.t|_n = |t|_n$, $|\text{case}_A t \text{ zero } s \text{ even } r \text{ odd } q|_n = \max\{|t|_n, |s|_n, |r|_n, |q|_n\}$, $|\text{recursion}_A t s r|_n = \max\{|t|_n, |s|_n, |r|_n\}$, $|n|_n = \lceil \log_2(n) \rceil$, and $|S_0|_n = |S_1|_n = |P|_n = |\text{rand}|_n = 0$. Clearly, $|t| \leq |t|_w \cdot |t|_n$. We prove the following strengthening of the statements above by induction on $|t|_w$:

1. $|\pi| \leq |t|_w$;
2. If $s \in \pi$, then $|s|_w \leq |t|_w$ and $|s|_n \leq |t|_n + |t|_w$;

Some interesting cases:

- Suppose t is **rand**. We could have two derivations:

$$\frac{}{\text{rand} \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 0} \quad \frac{}{\text{rand} \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 1}$$

The thesis is easily proved.

- Suppose t is $S_i s$. Depending on S_i we could have two different derivations:

$$\frac{\rho : s \Downarrow_{nf}^\alpha n}{S_0 s \Downarrow_{nf}^\alpha 2 \cdot n} \quad \frac{\rho : s \Downarrow_{nf}^\alpha n}{S_1 s \Downarrow_{nf}^\alpha 2 \cdot n + 1}$$

Suppose we are in the case where $S_i \equiv S_0$. Then, for every $r \in \pi$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &= |\rho| + 1 \leq |s|_w + 1 = |t|_w; \\ |r|_w &\leq |s|_w \leq |t|_w \\ |r|_n &\leq |s|_n + |s|_w + 1 = |s|_n + |t|_w \\ &= |t|_n + |t|_w \end{aligned}$$

The case where $S_i \equiv S_1$ is proved in the same way.

- Suppose t is Ps .

$$\frac{\rho : s \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha} 0}{Ps \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha} 0} \quad \frac{\rho : s \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha} n \quad n \geq 1}{Ps \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha} \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}$$

We focus on case where $n > 1$, the other case is similar. For every $r \in \pi$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &= |\rho| + 1 \leq |s|_{\text{w}} + 1 = |t|_{\text{w}} \\ |r|_{\text{w}} &\leq |s|_{\text{w}} \leq |t|_{\text{w}} \\ |r|_{\text{n}} &\leq |s|_{\text{n}} + |s|_{\text{w}} + 1 = |s|_{\text{n}} + |t|_{\text{w}} \\ &= |t|_{\text{n}} + |t|_{\text{w}} \end{aligned}$$

- Suppose t is n .

$$\overline{n \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^1 n}$$

By knowing $|\pi| = 1$, $|n|_{\text{w}} = 1$ and $|n|_{\text{n}} = |n|$, the proof is trivial.

- Suppose that t is $(\lambda y : a\mathbf{N}.s)r\bar{q}$. All derivations π for t are in the following form:

$$\frac{\rho : r \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha} o \quad \mu : (s[y/o])\bar{q} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\beta} m}{t \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha\beta} m}$$

Then, for every $u \in \pi$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &\leq |\rho| + |\mu| + 1 \leq |r|_{\text{w}} + |s[y/o]\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} + 1 \\ &= |r|_{\text{w}} + |s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} + 1 \leq |t|_{\text{w}}; \\ |u|_{\text{n}} &\leq \max\{|r|_{\text{n}} + |r|_{\text{w}}, |s[y/o]\bar{q}|_{\text{n}} + |s[y/o]\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}\} \\ &= \max\{|r|_{\text{n}} + |r|_{\text{w}}, |s[y/o]\bar{q}|_{\text{n}} + |s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}\} \\ &= \max\{|r|_{\text{n}} + |r|_{\text{w}}, \max\{|s\bar{q}|_{\text{n}}, |o|\} + |s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}\} \\ &= \max\{|r|_{\text{n}} + |r|_{\text{w}}, |s\bar{q}|_{\text{n}} + |s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}, |o| + |s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}\} \\ &\leq \max\{|r|_{\text{n}} + |r|_{\text{w}}, |s\bar{q}|_{\text{n}} + |s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}, |r|_{\text{n}} + |r|_{\text{w}} + |s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}\} \\ &\leq \max\{|r|_{\text{n}}, |s\bar{q}|_{\text{n}}\} + |r|_{\text{w}} + |s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} \\ &\leq \max\{|r|_{\text{n}}, |s\bar{q}|_{\text{n}}\} + |t|_{\text{w}} \\ &= |t|_{\text{n}} + |t|_{\text{w}}; \\ |u|_{\text{w}} &\leq \max\{|r|_{\text{w}}, |s[y/o]\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}, |t|_{\text{w}}\} \\ &= \max\{|r|_{\text{w}}, |s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}, |t|_{\text{w}}\} \leq |t|_{\text{w}}. \end{aligned}$$

If $u \in \pi$, then either $u \in \rho$ or $u \in \mu$ or simply $u = t$. This, together with the induction hypothesis, implies $|u|_{\text{w}} \leq \max\{|r|_{\text{w}}, |s[y/o]\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}, |t|_{\text{w}}\}$. Notice that $|s\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} = |s[y/o]\bar{q}|_{\text{n}}$ holds because any occurrence of y in s counts for 1, but also o itself counts for 1 (see the definition of $|\cdot|_{\text{w}}$ above). More generally, duplication of *numerals* for a variable in t does not make $|t|_{\text{w}}$ bigger.

- Suppose t is $(\lambda y : aH.s)r\bar{q}$. Without loosing generality we can say that it derives from the following derivation:

$$\frac{\rho : (s[y/r])\bar{q} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\beta} n}{(\lambda y : aH.s)r\bar{q} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\beta} n}$$

For the reason that y has type H we can be sure that it appears at most once in s . So, $|s[y/r]| \leq |sr|$ and, moreover, $|s[y/r]\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} \leq |sr\bar{q}|_{\text{w}}$ and $|s[y/r]\bar{q}|_{\text{n}} \leq |sr\bar{q}|_{\text{n}}$. We have, for all $u \in \rho$:

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &= |\rho| + 1 \leq |s[y/r]\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} + 1 \leq |t|_{\text{w}} \\ |u|_{\text{w}} &\leq |s[y/r]\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} \leq |sr\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} \leq |t|_{\text{w}} \\ |u|_{\text{n}} &\leq |s[y/r]\bar{q}|_{\text{n}} + |s[y/r]\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} \leq |sr\bar{q}|_{\text{n}} + |sr\bar{q}|_{\text{w}} \leq |t|_{\text{n}} + |t|_{\text{w}} \end{aligned}$$

and this means that the same inequalities hold for every $u \in \pi$.

- Suppose t is $\text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u$. We could have three possible derivations:

$$\frac{\rho : s \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 0 \quad \mu : r\bar{v} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta n}{(\text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u)\bar{v} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha\beta} n}$$

$$\frac{\rho : s \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 2n \quad \mu : q\bar{v} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta m \quad n \geq 1}{(\text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u)\bar{v} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha\beta} m}$$

$$\frac{\rho : s \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\alpha 2n+1 \quad \mu : u\bar{v} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\beta m}{(\text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u)\bar{v} \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\alpha\beta} m}$$

we will focus on the case where the value of s is odd. All the other cases are similar. For all $z \in \pi$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &\leq |\rho| + |\mu| + 1 \\ &\leq |s|_w + |u\bar{v}|_w + 1 \leq |t|_w \\ |z|_w &\leq |s|_w + |r|_w + |q|_w + |u\bar{v}|_w \leq |t|_w \\ |z|_n &= \max \{|s|_n + |s|_w, |u\bar{v}|_n + |u\bar{v}|_w, |r|_n, |q|_n\} \\ &\leq \max \{|s|_n, |u\bar{v}|_n, |r|_n, |q|_n\} + |s|_w + |u\bar{v}|_w \\ &\leq |t|_w + |t|_n \end{aligned}$$

This concludes the proof. \square

As opposed to \Downarrow_{nf} , \Downarrow_{rf} unrolls instances of primitive recursion, and thus cannot have the very simple combinatorial behaviour of \Downarrow_{nf} . Fortunately, however, everything stays under control:

Proposition 3.3. *Suppose that $x_1 : \Box\mathbf{N}, \dots, x_i : \Box\mathbf{N} \vdash t : A$, where A is \Box -free type. Then there are polynomials p_t and q_t such that for every n_1, \dots, n_i and for every $\pi : t[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha s$ it holds that:*

1. $|\pi| \leq p_t(\sum_i |n_i|)$;
2. If $s \in \pi$, then $|s| \leq q_t(\sum_i |n_i|)$.

Proof. The following strengthening of the result can be proved by induction on the structure of a type derivation μ for t : if $x_1 : \Box\mathbf{N}, \dots, x_i : \Box\mathbf{N}, y_1 : \blacksquare A_1, \dots, y_j : \blacksquare A_j \vdash t : A$, where A is positively \Box -free and A_1, \dots, A_j are negatively \Box -free. Then there are polynomials p_t and q_t such that for every n_1, \dots, n_i and for every $\pi : t[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha s$ it holds that

1. $|\pi| \leq p_t(\sum_i |n_i|)$;
2. If $s \in \pi$, then $|s| \leq q_t(\sum_i |n_i|)$.

In defining positively and negatively \Box -free types, let us proceed by induction on types:

- \mathbf{N} is both positively and negatively \Box -free;
- $\Box A \rightarrow B$ is *not* positively \Box -free, and is negatively \Box -free whenever A is positively \Box -free and B is negatively \Box -free;
- $C = \blacksquare A \rightarrow B$ is positively \Box -free if A is negatively and B is positively \Box -free. C is negatively \Box -free if A is positively \Box -free and B is negatively \Box -free.

Please observe that if A is positively \Box -free and $B <: A$, then B is positively \Box -free. Conversely, if A is negatively \Box -free and $A <: B$, then B is negatively \Box -free. This can be easily proved by induction on the structure of A . We are ready to start the proof, now. Let us consider some cases, depending on the shape of μ

- If the only typing rule in μ is (T-CONST-AFF), then $t \equiv c$, $p_t(x) \equiv 1$ and $q_t(x) \equiv 1$. The thesis is proved.
- If the last rule was (T-VAR-AFF) then $t \equiv x$, $p_t(x) \equiv 1$ and $q_t(x) \equiv x$. The thesis is proved

- If the last rule was (T-ARR-I) then $t \equiv \lambda x : \blacksquare A.s$. Notice that the aspect is \blacksquare because the type of our term has to be positively \square -free. So, we have the following derivation:

$$\frac{\rho : s[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\beta} v}{\lambda x : aA.s[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\beta} \lambda x : aA.v}$$

If the type of t is positively \square -free, then also the type of s is positively \square -free. We can apply induction hypothesis. Define p_t and q_t as:

$$\begin{aligned} p_t(x) &\equiv p_s(x) + 1 \\ q_t(x) &\equiv q_s(x) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &\equiv |\rho| + 1 \\ &\leq p_s(\sum_i |n_i|) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

- If last rule was (T-SUB) then we have a typing derivation that ends in the following way:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A \quad A <: B}{\Gamma \vdash t : B}$$

we can apply induction hypothesis on $t : A$ because if B is positively \square -free, then also A will be too. Define $p_{t:B}(x) \equiv p_{t:A}(x)$ and $q_{t:B}(x) \equiv q_{t:A}(x)$.

- If the last rule was (T-CASE). Suppose $t \equiv (\text{case}_A s \text{ zero } r \text{ even } q \text{ odd } u)$. The constraints on the typing rule (T-CASE) ensure us that the induction hypothesis can be applied to s, r, q, u . The definition of \Downarrow_{rf} tells us that any derivation of $t[\bar{x}/\bar{n}]$ must have the following shape:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{cc} \rho : s[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha} z & \nu : q[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\gamma} b \\ \mu : r[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\beta} a & \sigma : u[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\delta} c \end{array}}{t[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} (\text{case}_A z \text{ zero } a \text{ even } b \text{ odd } c)}$$

Let us now define p_t and q_t as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} p_t(x) &= p_s(x) + p_r(x) + p_q(x) + p_u(x) + 1 \\ q_t(x) &= q_s(x) + q_r(x) + q_q(x) + q_u(x) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &\leq |\rho| + |\mu| + |\nu| + |\sigma| + 1 \\ &\leq p_s(\sum_i |n_i|) + p_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + p_q(\sum_i |n_i|) + p_u(\sum_i |n_i|) + 1 \\ &= p_t(\sum_i |n_i|). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, if $z \in \pi$, it is easy to prove that $|z| \leq q_z(\sum_i |n_i|)$.

- If the last rule was (T-REC). Suppose $t \equiv (\text{recursion}_A s r q)$. By looking at the typing rule (figure 4) for (T-REC) we are sure to be able to apply induction hypothesis on s, r, q .

Definition of \Downarrow_{rf} ensure also that any derivation for $t[\bar{x}/\bar{n}]$ must have the following shape:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \rho : s[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha} z \quad \mu : z[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\beta} n \\ \nu : r[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\gamma} a \\ \varrho_0 : qz[\bar{x}, z/\bar{n}, \lfloor \frac{n}{2^0} \rfloor] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\gamma_0} q_0 \\ \dots \\ \varrho_{|n|-1} : qz[\bar{x}, z/\bar{n}, \lfloor \frac{n}{2^{|n|-1}} \rfloor] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\gamma_{|n|-1}} q_{|n|-1} \end{array}}{(\text{recursion}_A \ s \ r \ q)[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha\beta\gamma(\prod_j \gamma_j)} q_0(\dots(q_{(|n|-1)} a) \dots)}$$

Notice that we are able to apply \Downarrow_{nf} on term z because, by definition, s has only free variables of type $\square\mathbf{N}$ (see figure 4). So, we are sure that z is a closed term of type \mathbf{N} and we are able to apply the \Downarrow_{nf} algorithm.

Let define p_t and q_t as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} p_t(x) &\equiv p_s(x) + 2 \cdot q_s(x) + p_r(x) + q_s(x) \cdot p_q(x) + 1 \\ q_t(x) &\equiv q_s(x) + q_r(x) + 2 \cdot q_s(x)^2 + q_q(x + 2 \cdot q_s(x)^2) \end{aligned}$$

Notice that $|z|$ is bounded by $q_s(x)$. Notice that by applying theorem 3.2 on μ (z has no free variables) we have that every $v \in \mu$ is s.t. $v \leq p_z(|n_1|, \dots, |n_i|)$. We will refer to $p_z(x)$ to intend $p_z(x, \dots, x)$.

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &\leq |\rho| + |\mu| + |\nu| + \sum_i (|\varrho_i|) + 1 \\ &\leq p_s(\sum_i |n_i|) + 2 \cdot |z| + p_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + |n| \cdot p_q(\sum_i |n_i|) + 1 \\ &\leq p_s(\sum_i |n_i|) + 2 \cdot q_s(\sum_i |n_i|) + p_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + q_s(\sum_i |n_i|) \cdot p_q(\sum_i |n_i|) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, for every $z \in \pi$:

$$\begin{aligned} |z| &\leq q_s(\sum_i |n_i|) + 2 \cdot q_s(\sum_i |n_i|)^2 + q_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + q_{qz}(\sum_i |n_i| + |n|) \\ &\leq q_s(\sum_i |n_i|) + 2 \cdot q_z(\sum_i |n_i|)^2 + q_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + q_{qz}(\sum_i |n_i| + q_s(\sum_i |n_i|)^2) \end{aligned}$$

- In the following cases the last rule is (T-ARR-E).
- $t \equiv x\bar{s}$. In this case, obviously, the free variable x has type $\blacksquare A_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq j$). By definition x is negatively \square -free. This it means that every term in \bar{s} has a type that is positively \square -free. By knowing that the type of x is negatively \square -free, we conclude that the type of our term t is \square -free (because is both negatively and positively \square -free at the same time).

Definition of \Downarrow_{rf} ensures us that the derivation will have the following shape:

$$\frac{\rho_i : s_j[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha_j} r_j}{x\bar{s}[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\prod_i \alpha_i} x\bar{r}}$$

We define p_t and q_t as:

$$\begin{aligned} p_t(x) &\equiv \sum_j p_{s_j}(x) + 1 \\ q_t(x) &\equiv \sum_j q_{s_j}(x) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Indeed we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &\leq \sum_j |\rho_j| + 1 \\ &\leq \sum_j \{p_{t_j}(\sum_i |n_i|)\} + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, if $z \in \pi$, it is easy to prove that $|z| \leq q_z(\sum_i |n_i|)$.

- If $t \equiv S_0 s$, then s have type \mathbf{N} in the context Γ . The derivation π has the following form

$$\frac{\rho : s[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha z}{S_0 s[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha S_0 z}$$

Define $p_t(x) = p_s(x) + 1$ and $q_t(x) = q_s(x) + 1$. One can easily check that, by induction hypothesis

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &\leq |\rho| + 1 \leq p_s(\sum_i |n_i|) + 1 \\ &= p_t(\sum_i |n_i|). \end{aligned}$$

Analogously, if $r \in \pi$ then

$$|s| \leq q_s(\sum_i |n_i|) + 1 \leq q_t(\sum_i |n_i|).$$

- If $t \equiv S_1 s$ or $t \equiv P s$, then we can proceed exactly as in the previous case.
- Cases where we have on the left side a case or a recursion with some arguments, is trivial: can be brought back to cases that we have considered.
- If t is $(\lambda x : \Box \mathbf{N}. s) r \bar{q}$, then we have the following derivation:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \rho : r[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\alpha a \\ \mu : a[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^\gamma n \quad \nu : (s[x/n]) \bar{q}[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^\beta v \end{array}}{(\lambda x : \Box \mathbf{N}. s) r \bar{q}[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha\gamma\beta} v}$$

By hypothesis t is positively \Box -free and so also r (whose type is \mathbf{N}) and $s\bar{q}$ are positively \Box -free. So, we are sure that we are able to use induction hypothesis.

Let p_t and q_t be:

$$\begin{aligned} p_t(x) &\equiv p_r(x) + 2 \cdot q_r(x) + p_{s\bar{q}}(x + 2 \cdot q_r(x)) + 1 \\ q_t(x) &\equiv q_{s\bar{q}}(x + 2 \cdot q_r(x)^2) + q_r(x) + 2 \cdot q_r(x)^2 + 1 \end{aligned}$$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &\equiv |\rho| + |\mu| + |\nu| + 1 \\ &\leq p_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + 2 \cdot |a| + p_{s\bar{q}}(\sum_i |n_i| + |n|) + 1 \\ &\leq p_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + 2 \cdot q_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + p_{s\bar{q}}(\sum_i |n_i| + 2 \cdot q_r(\sum_i |n_i|)) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

By applying induction hypothesis we have that every $v \in \rho$ is s.t. $|v| \leq q_r(\sum_i |n_i|)$, every $v \in \nu$ is s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} |v| &\leq q_{s\bar{q}}(\sum_i |n_i| + |n|) \\ &\leq q_{s\bar{q}}(\sum_i |n_i| + 2 \cdot |a|^2) \\ &\leq q_{s\bar{q}}(\sum_i |n_i| + 2 \cdot q_r(\sum_i |n_i|)^2) \end{aligned}$$

By construction, remember that s has no free variables of type $\blacksquare\mathbf{N}$.

For theorem 3.2 (z has no free variables) we have $v \in \mu$ is s.t. $|v| \leq q_a(\sum_i |n_i|)$.

We can prove the second point of our thesis by setting $q_t(\sum_i |n_i|)$ as $q_{s\bar{q}}(\sum_i |n_i| + q_r(\sum_i |n_i|)) + q_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + q_a(\sum_i |n_i|) + 1$.

- If t is $(\lambda x : \blacksquare\mathbf{N}.s)r\bar{q}$, then we have the following derivation:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \rho : r[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha} a \\ \mu : a[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{nf}}^{\gamma} n \quad \nu : s\bar{q}[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\beta} u \end{array}}{(\lambda x : \blacksquare\mathbf{N}.s)r\bar{q}[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\alpha\gamma\beta} (\lambda x : \blacksquare\mathbf{N}.u)n}$$

By hypothesis we have t that is positively \square -free. So, also r and a (whose type is \mathbf{N}) and $s\bar{q}$ are positively \square -free. We define p_t and q_t as:

$$\begin{aligned} p_t(x) &\equiv p_r(x) + 2 \cdot q_r(x) + p_{s\bar{q}}(x) + 1; \\ q_t(x) &\equiv q_r(x) + 2 \cdot q_r(x)^2 + q_{s\bar{q}}(x) + 1. \end{aligned}$$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} |\pi| &\equiv |\rho| + |\mu| + |\nu| + 1 \\ &\leq p_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + 2 \cdot q_r(\sum_i |n_i|) + p_{s\bar{q}}(\sum_i |n_i|) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, if $z \in \pi$, it is easy to prove that $|z| \leq q_z(\sum_i |n_i|)$.

- If t is $(\lambda x : aH.s)r\bar{q}$, then we have the following derivation:

$$\frac{\rho : (s[x/r])\bar{q}[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\beta} v}{(\lambda x : aH.s)r\bar{q}[\bar{x}/\bar{n}] \Downarrow_{\text{rf}}^{\beta} v}$$

By hypothesis we have t that is positively \square -free. So, also $s\bar{q}$ is positively \square -free. r has an higher-order type H and so we are sure that $|(s[x/r])\bar{q}| < |(\lambda x : aH.s)r\bar{q}|$. Define p_t and q_t as:

$$\begin{aligned} p_t(x) &\equiv p_{(s[x/r])\bar{q}}(x) + 1; \\ q_t(x) &\equiv q_{(s[x/r])\bar{q}}(x) + 1. \end{aligned}$$

By applying induction hypothesis we have:

$$|\pi| \equiv |\rho| + 1 \leq p_{(s[x/r])\bar{q}}(\sum_i |n_i|) + 1$$

By using induction we are able also to prove the second point of our thesis. This concludes the proof. \square

Following the definition of \Downarrow , it is quite easy to obtain, given a first order term t , of arity k , a probabilistic Turing machine that, when receiving on input (an encoding of) $n_1 \dots n_k$, produces on output m with probability equal to $\mathcal{D}(m)$, where \mathcal{D} is the (unique!) distribution such that $t \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$. Indeed, \Downarrow_{rf} and \Downarrow_{nf} are designed in a very algorithmic way. Moreover, the obtained Turing machine works in polynomial time, due to propositions 3.2 and 3.3. Formally:

Theorem 3.4 (Soundness). *Suppose t is a first order term of arity k . Then there is a probabilistic Turing machine M_t running in polynomial time such that M_t on input $n_1 \dots n_k$ returns m with probability exactly $\mathcal{D}(m)$, where \mathcal{D} is a probability distribution such that $tn_1 \dots n_k \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$.*

Proof. By propositions 3.2 and 3.3. \square

Example 3.1. Let's see now an example about how the two machines \Downarrow_{rf} and \Downarrow_{nf} works. Suppose to have the following t term:

$$(\lambda z : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \lambda h : \square \mathbf{N}. \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{N}} z h (\lambda x : \square \mathbf{N}. (\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} \text{rand zero } S_1 \text{ even } S_1 \text{ odd } S_0) y))(10)(1110)$$

For simplify reading let define:

- Be $g \equiv (\text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} \text{rand zero } S_1 \text{ even } S_1 \text{ odd } S_0)$.
- Be $f \equiv \lambda x : \square \mathbf{N}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. (\text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} \text{rand zero } S_1 \text{ even } S_1 \text{ odd } S_0) y$.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
S_1 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 S_1 \quad \text{rand } \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \text{rand} \\
S_0 \Downarrow_{rf}^0 S_0 \quad S_1 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 S_1 \quad y \Downarrow_{rf}^1 y
\end{array} \\
\hline
\text{(case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} \text{rand zero } S_1 \text{ even } S_1 \text{ odd } S_0) y \Downarrow_{rf}^1 (\text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} \text{rand zero } S_1 \text{ even } S_1 \text{ odd } S_0) y \\
\hline
\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
1110 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 1110 \\
1110 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 1110
\end{array} \\
\hline
f1110 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy
\end{array}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
111 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 111 \\
111 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 111
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\pi : \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy \\
f111 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
11 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 11 \\
11 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 11
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\pi : \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy \\
f11 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
1 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 1 \\
1 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 1
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\pi : \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy \\
f1 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
1110 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 1110 \\
1110 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 1110
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\rho_0 : f1110 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy \\
\rho_1 : f111 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\rho_3 : f11 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy \\
\rho_4 : f1 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
h \Downarrow_{rf}^1 h \\
1110 \Downarrow_{rf}^1 1110 \\
1110 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 1110
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{recursion}_{\mathbf{N}} 1110 h (\lambda x : \square \mathbf{N}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. (\text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} \text{rand zero } S_1 \text{ even } S_1 \text{ odd } S_0) y) \Downarrow_{rf}^1 (\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)z))) \\
\hline
\lambda h : \square \mathbf{N}. \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{N}} z h (\lambda x : \square \mathbf{N}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. (\text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} \text{rand zero } S_1 \text{ even } S_1 \text{ odd } S_0) y)(1110) \Downarrow_{rf}^1 ((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)z)))) \\
\hline
\lambda z : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. \lambda h : \square \mathbf{N}. \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{N}} z h (\lambda x : \square \mathbf{N}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. (\text{case}_{\blacksquare \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}} \text{rand zero } S_1 \text{ even } S_1 \text{ odd } S_0) y)(10)(1110) \Downarrow_{rf}^1 \lambda z : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. ((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)z))))(10)
\end{array}$$

Then, by applying the machine for \Downarrow_{nf} we could obtain the following derivation tree. Recall that, for the reason we have **rand** inside our term, there will be more than one possible derivation tree.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
\text{rand } \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 1 \quad S_0 0 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 100 \\
10 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 10 \quad g(10) \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 100
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\text{rand } \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 0 \quad S_1 100 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 1001 \\
g(100) \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 1001
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\text{rand } \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 0 \quad S_1 1001 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 1001 \\
g(1001) \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 10011
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
(\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy) 10 \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 100 \\
(\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy) 10) \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/4} 1001
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
g(1001) \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 10011 \\
g(10011) \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/2} 100110
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
(\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy) 10)) \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/8} 10011 \\
(\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy) 10))) \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/16} 100110
\end{array}
\quad
10 \Downarrow_{nf}^1 10
\end{array}$$

$$\lambda z : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. ((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)((\lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{N}. gy)z))))(10) \Downarrow_{nf}^{1/16} 100110$$

4 Probabilistic Polytime Completeness

In the previous section, we proved that the behaviour of any RSLR first-order term can be somehow simulated by a probabilistic polytime Turing machine. What about the converse? In this section, we prove that any probabilistic polynomial time Turing machine (PPTM in the following) can be encoded in RSLR. PPTMs are here seen as one-tape Turing machines which are capable at any step during the computation of “tossing a fair coin”, and proceeding in two different ways depending on the outcome of the tossing.

To facilitate the encoding, we extend our system with pairs and projections. All the proofs in previous sections remain valid. Base types now comprise not only natural numbers but also pairs of base types:

$$G := \mathbf{N} \mid G \times G.$$

Terms now contain a binary construct $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and two unary constructs $\pi_1(\cdot)$ and $\pi_2(\cdot)$, which can be given a type by the rules below:

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta_1 \vdash t : G \quad \Gamma; \Delta_2 \vdash s : F}{\Gamma; \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \vdash \langle t, s \rangle : G \times F}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : G \times F}{\Gamma \vdash \pi_1(t) : G} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : G \times F}{\Gamma \vdash \pi_2(t) : F}$$

As syntactic sugar, we will use $\langle t_1 \dots, t_i \rangle$ (where $i \geq 1$) for the term

$$\langle t_1, \langle t_2, \dots \langle t_{i-1}, t_i \rangle \dots \rangle \rangle.$$

For every $n \geq 1$ and every $1 \leq i \leq n$, we can easily build a term π_i^n which extracts the i -th component from tuples of n elements: this can be done by composing $\pi_1(\cdot)$ and $\pi_2(\cdot)$. With a slight abuse on notation, we sometimes write π_i for π_i^n .

4.1 Unary Natural Numbers and Polynomials

Natural numbers in RSLR are represented in binary. In other words, the basic operations allowed on them are \mathbf{S}_0 , \mathbf{S}_1 and \mathbf{P} , which correspond to appending a binary digit to the right and of the number (seen as a binary string) or stripping the rightmost such digit. This is even clearer if we consider the length $|n|$ of a numeral n , which is only logarithmic in n .

Sometimes, however, it is more convenient to work in unary notation. Given a natural number i , its *unary encoding* is simply the numeral that, written in binary notation, is 1^i . Given a natural number i we will refer to its encoding \dot{i} . The type in which unary encoded natural numbers will be written, is just \mathbf{N} , but for reason of clarity we will use the symbol \mathbf{U} instead.

Any numeral n , we can extract the unary encoding of its length:

$$\text{encode} \equiv \lambda t : \Box \mathbf{N}. \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{U}} \ t \ 0 \ (\lambda x : \Box \mathbf{U}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{U}. \mathbf{S}_1 y) : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$$

Predecessor and successor functions are defined in our language, simply as \mathbf{P} and \mathbf{S}_1 . We need to show how to express polynomials and in order to do this we will define the operators $\text{add} : \Box \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \blacksquare \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$ and $\text{mult} : \Box \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \Box \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$. We define add as

$$\text{add} \equiv \lambda x : \Box \mathbf{U}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{U}. \\ \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{U}} \ x \ y \ (\lambda x : \Box \mathbf{U}. \lambda y : \blacksquare \mathbf{U}. \mathbf{S}_1 y) : \Box \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \blacksquare \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$$

Similarly, we define mult as

$$\text{mult} \equiv \lambda x : \Box \mathbf{U}. \lambda y : \Box \mathbf{U}. \\ \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{U}} \ (\mathbf{P} x) \ y \ (\lambda x : \Box \mathbf{U}. \lambda z : \blacksquare \mathbf{U}. \text{add} y z) : \Box \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \Box \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$$

The following is quite easy:

Lemma 4.1. *Every polynomial of one variable with natural coefficients can be encoded as a term of type $\Box \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$.*

Proof. Simply, turn **add** into a term of type $\Box \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \Box \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$ by way of subtyping and then compose **add** and **mult** has much as needed to encode the polynomial at hand. \square

4.2 Finite Sets

Any finite, linearly ordered set $F = (|F|, \sqsubseteq_F)$ can be naturally encoded as an “initial segment” of \mathbf{N} : if $|F| = \{a_0, \dots, a_i\}$ where $a_i \sqsubseteq_F a_j$ whenever $i \leq j$, then a_i is encoded simply by the natural number whose binary representation is 10^i . For reasons of clarity, we will denote \mathbf{N} as \mathbf{F}_F . We can do some case analysis on an element of \mathbf{F}_F by the combinator

$$\text{switch}_A^F : \mathbf{F}_F \rightarrow \underbrace{\mathbf{A} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \mathbf{A}}_{i \text{ times}} \rightarrow \mathbf{A} \rightarrow A$$

where A is a \Box -free type and i is the cardinality of $|F|$. The term above can be defined by induction on i :

- If $i = 0$, then it is simply $\lambda x : \mathbf{F}_F. \lambda y : \mathbf{A}. y$.
- If $i \geq 1$, then it is the following:

$$\lambda x : \mathbf{F}_F. \lambda y_0 : \mathbf{A}. \dots \lambda y_i : \mathbf{A}. \lambda z : \mathbf{A}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{case}_A x \text{ zero}(\lambda h : \mathbf{A}. h) \\ & \quad \text{even}(\lambda h : \mathbf{A}. \text{switch}_A^E(Px)y_1 \dots y_i h) \\ & \quad \text{odd}(\lambda h : \mathbf{A}. y_0) \end{aligned}$$

where E is the subset of F of those elements with positive indices.

4.3 Strings

Suppose $\Sigma = \{a_0, \dots, a_i\}$ is a finite alphabet. Elements of Σ can be encoded following the just described scheme, but how about strings in Σ^* ? We can somehow proceed similarly: the string $a_{j_1} \dots a_{j_k}$ can be encoded as the natural number

$$10^{j_1} 10^{j_2} \dots 10^{j_k}.$$

Whenever we want to emphasize that a natural number is used as a string, we write \mathbf{S}_Σ instead of \mathbf{N} . It is easy to build a term $\text{append}_\Sigma : \mathbf{S}_\Sigma \times \mathbf{F}_\Sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{S}_\Sigma$ which appends the second argument to the first argument. Similarly, one can define a term $\text{tail}_\Sigma : \mathbf{S}_\Sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{S}_\Sigma \times \mathbf{F}_\Sigma$ which strips off the rightmost character a from the argument string and returns a together with the rest of the string; if the string is empty, a_0 is returned, by convention.

We also define a function $\text{NtoS}_\Sigma : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{S}_\Sigma$ that takes a natural number and produce in output an encoding of the corresponding string in Σ^* (where i_0 and i_1 are the indices of 0 and 1 in Σ):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{NtoS}_\Sigma &\equiv \lambda x : \Box \mathbf{N}. \text{recursion}_{\mathbf{S}_\Sigma} x \sqsubseteq \\ & \quad \lambda x : \mathbf{N}. \lambda y : \mathbf{S}. \text{case}_{\mathbf{N}} x \text{ zero } \text{append}_\Sigma \langle y, 10^{i_0} \rangle \\ & \quad \text{even } \text{append}_\Sigma \langle y, 10^{i_1} \rangle \\ & \quad \text{odd } \text{append}_\Sigma \langle y, 10^{i_1} \rangle : \Box \mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{S} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, one can write a term $\text{StoS}_\Sigma : \Box \mathbf{S}_\Sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$.

4.4 Probabilistic Turing Machines

Let M be a probabilistic Turing machine $M = (Q, q_0, F, \Sigma, \sqcup, \delta)$, where Q is the finite set of states of the machine; q_0 is the initial state; F is the set of final states of M ; Σ is the finite alphabet

of the tape; $\sqcup \in \Sigma$ is the symbol for empty string; $\delta \subseteq (Q \times \Sigma) \times (Q \times \Sigma \times \{\leftarrow, \downarrow, \rightarrow\})$ is the transition function of M . For each pair $(q, s) \in Q \times \Sigma$, there are exactly two triples (r_1, t_1, d_1) and (r_2, t_2, d_2) such that $((q, s), (r_1, t_1, d_1)) \in \delta$ and $((q, s), (r_2, t_2, d_2)) \in \delta$. Configurations of M can be encoded as follows:

$$\langle t_{\text{left}}, t, t_{\text{right}}, s \rangle : \mathbf{S}_\Sigma \times \mathbf{F}_\Sigma \times \mathbf{S}_\Sigma \times \mathbf{F}_Q,$$

where t_{left} represents the left part of the main tape, t is the symbol read from the head of M , t_{right} the right part of the main tape; s is the state of our Turing Machine. Let the type \mathbf{C}_M be a shortcut for $\mathbf{S}_\Sigma \times \mathbf{F}_\Sigma \times \mathbf{S}_\Sigma \times \mathbf{F}_Q$.

Suppose that M on input x runs in time bounded by a polynomial $p : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. Then we can proceed as follows:

- encode the polynomial p by using function `encode`, `add`, `mult`, `dec` so that at the end we will have a function $\underline{p} : \square\mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$;
- write a term $\underline{\delta} : \blacksquare\mathbf{C}_M \rightarrow \mathbf{C}_M$ which mimicks δ .
- write a term $\text{init}_M : \blacksquare\mathbf{S}_\Sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{C}_M$ which returns the initial configuration for M corresponding to the input string.

The term of type $\square\mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ which has exactly the same behavior as M is the following:

$$\lambda x : \square\mathbf{N}. \text{StoN}_\Sigma(\text{recursion}_{\mathbf{C}_M}(\underline{p} \ x) (\text{init}_M(\text{NtoS}_\Sigma(x))) (\lambda y : \blacksquare\mathbf{N}. \lambda z : \blacksquare\mathbf{C}_M. \underline{\delta} \ z)).$$

We then get a faithful encoding of PPTM into RSLR, which will be useful in the forthcoming section:

Theorem 4.2. *Suppose M is a probabilistic Turing machine running in polynomial time such that for every n , \mathcal{D}_n is the distribution of possible results obtained by running M on input n . Then there is a first order term t such that for every n , tn evaluates to \mathcal{D}_n .*

5 Relations with Complexity Classes

The last two sections established a precise correspondence between RSLR and probabilistic polynomial time Turing machines. But how about probabilistic complexity *classes*, like **BPP** or **PP**? They are defined on top of probabilistic Turing machines, imposing constraints on the probability of error: in the case of **PP**, the error probability can be anywhere near $\frac{1}{2}$, but not equal to it, while in **BPP** it can be non-negligibly smaller than $\frac{1}{2}$. There are two ways RSLR can be put in correspondence with the complexity classes above, and these are explained in the following two sections.

5.1 Leaving the Error Probability Explicit

Of course, one possibility consists in leaving bounds on the error probability explicit *in the very definition* of what an RSLR term represents:

Definition 5.1 (Recognising a Language with Error ϵ). A first-order term t of arity 1 recognizes a language $L \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ with probability less than ϵ if, and only if, both:

- $x \in L$ and $tx \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$ implies $\mathcal{D}(0) > 1 - \epsilon$.
- $x \notin L$ and $tx \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$ implies $\sum_{s>0} \mathcal{D}(s) > 1 - \epsilon$.

So, 0 encodes an accepting state of tx and $s > 0$ encodes a reject state of tx . Theorem 3.4, together with Theorem 4.2 allows us to conclude that:

Theorem 5.1 ($\frac{1}{2}$ -Completeness for **PP**). *The set of languages which can be recognized with error ϵ in RSLR for some $0 < \epsilon \leq 1/2$ equals **PP**.*

But, interestingly, we can go beyond and capture a more interesting complexity class:

Theorem 5.2 ($\frac{1}{2}$ -Completeness for **BPP**). *The set of languages which can be recognized with error ϵ in RSLR for some $0 < \epsilon < 1/2$ equals **BPP**.*

Observe how ϵ can be even equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ in Theorem 5.1, while it cannot in Theorem 5.2. This is the main difference between **PP** and **BPP**: in the first class, the error probability can very fast approach $\frac{1}{2}$ when the size of the input grows, while in the second it cannot.

The notion of recognizing a language with an error ϵ allows to capture complexity classes in RSLR, but it has an obvious drawback: the error probability remains explicit and external to the system; in other words, RSLR does not characterize *one* complexity class but many, depending on the allowed values for ϵ . Moreover, given an RSLR term t and an error ϵ , determining whether t recognizes *any* function with error ϵ is not decidable. As a consequence, theorems 5.1 and 5.2 do not suggest an enumeration of all languages in either **PP** or **BPP**. This in contrast to what happens with other ICC systems, e.g. SLR, in which all terms (of certain types) compute a function in **FP** (and, *viceversa*, all functions in **FP** are computed this way). As we have already mentioned in the Introduction, this discrepancy between **FP** and **BPP** has a name: the first is a *syntactic* class, while the second is a *semantic* class (see [1]).

5.2 Getting Rid of Error Probability

One may wonder whether a more implicit notion of representation can be somehow introduced, and which complexity class corresponds to RSLR this way. One possibility is taking representability by majority:

Definition 5.2 (Representability-by-Majority). Let t be a first-order term of arity 1. Then t is said to *represent-by-majority* a language $L \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ iff:

1. If $n \in L$ and $tn \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$, then $\mathcal{D}(0) \geq \sum_{m>0} \mathcal{D}(m)$;
2. If $n \notin L$ and $tn \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{D}$, then $\sum_{m>0} \mathcal{D}(m) > \mathcal{D}(0)$.

There is a striking difference between Definition 5.2 and Definition 5.1: the latter is asymmetric, while the first is symmetric.

Please observe that any RSLR first order term t represents-by-majority a language, namely the language defined from t by Definition 5.2. It is well known that **PP** can be defined by majority itself, stipulating that the error probability should be *at most* $\frac{1}{2}$ when handling strings in the language and *strictly smaller than* $\frac{1}{2}$ when handling strings not in the language. As a consequence:

Theorem 5.3 (Completeness-by-Majority for **PP**). *The set of languages which can be represented-by-majority in RSLR equals **PP**.*

In other words, RSLR can indeed be considered as a tool to enumerate all functions in a complexity class, namely **PP**. At this comes with no surprise, since the latter is a syntactic class.

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